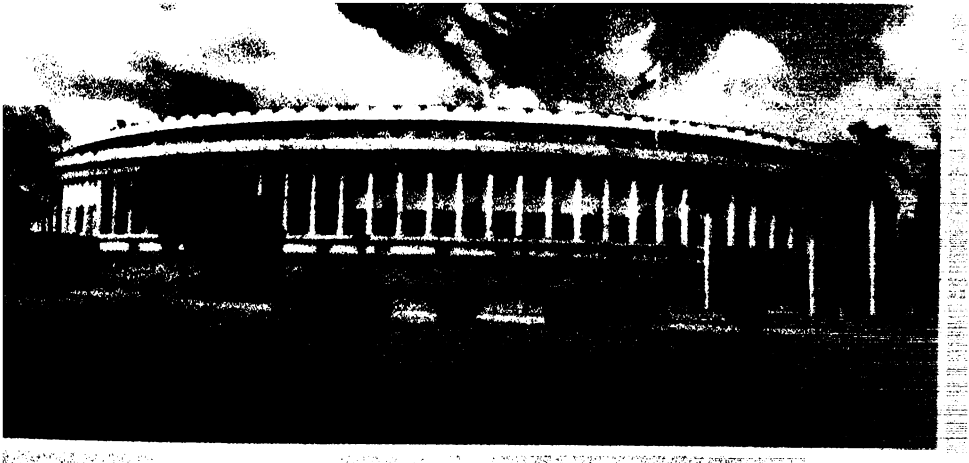
The Journal of Parliamentary Information



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

EDITOR: P.D.T. Achary

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The *Journal* serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

The Editor would welcome articles on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects for publication in the *Journal.* A token honorarium is payable for articles, etc. accepted for publication. The articles should be type-written on only one side of the paper.

The latest books on parliamentary and constitutional subjects are reviewed in the *Journal* by members of Parliament and scholars. Books intended for review should be sent to the Editor.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Transparency, accountability and good governance are the watchwords for democracies across the world. It is essential to ensure the accountability of the administration, which sustains parliamentary democracy. In order to secure Executive accountability, particularly in relation to the implementation of the assurances given by the Ministers on the floor of the House and for a systematic follow up of the implementation of the ministerial assurances, the Committee on Government Assurances of Parliament was set up for the first time in 1953 at the initiative of the then Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.V. Mavalankar. Subsequently, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of many States and Union territories followed suit and set up such a committee in their respective Houses. This Committee is a unique experiment in the Parliament of India.

Since its inception, this Committee has proved to be an indispensable tool in securing Executive accountability, particularly in relation to the implementation of the assurances given by the Ministers on the Floor of the House. What makes this Committee unique is that the assurances proffered or the promises made by the Ministers do not lapse on the dissolution of the elected House as the reconstituted Committee examines all the assurances which remained pending at the time of the dissolution of the House. It is indeed gratifying that the Committee on Government Assurances in each of our Legislatures has been exercising the utmost vigilance in ensuring that the administration does not evade or escape its responsibility in implementing, without delay, the assurances given by the Ministers in the House. The Fourth Conference of the Chairmen of the Committees on Government Assurances of Parliament and the State and Union Territory Legislatures which was held at New Delhi on 31 October 2006 discussed various issues and problems at functional level. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee on that occasion.

The history of Indian parliamentary democracy, in a way, has been inextricably linked with the Parliament House and its historic Central Hall. The precincts of the Parliament House have statues and busts of national leaders from our history and also contemporary era. The Central Hall of Parliament House is adorned with the portraits of several leaders, who have contributed immensely to the national cause. A grateful nation draws inspiration from their contributions. As a mark of respect

to them, the statues and portraits of the illustrious national leaders are being installed from time to time in the Parliament House Complex.

On 5 December 2006, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat unveiled the statues of Shri Vithalbhai Patel and Shri Indrajit Gupta and portraits of Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh and Shri Biju Patnaik in the precincts of the Parliament House.

On 7 December 2006, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee unveiled the Statues of Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Dr. M.G. Ramachandran in the precincts of the Parliament House.

On 8 December 2006, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, unveiled the Statue of Shri Murasoli Maran in the precincts of the Parliament House.

We include in this issue of the *Journal* three Short Notes on the above-mentioned events.

We also carry, in this issue, other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

–P.D.T. Achary
Editor

1

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES OF PARLIAMENT AND THE STATE AND UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address at the Conference of the Chairmen of the Committees on Government Assurances of Parliament and the State and Union territory Legislatures held on 31 October 2006 in New Delhi.

We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Shri Harin Pathak, Honourable Chairman of the Conference and Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances of Lok Sabha; Honourable Chairmen of the Committees on Government Assurances of the State and Union territory Legislatures; Secretary–General, Lok Sabha, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to be amidst you all at the inaugural function of the Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Government Assurances of Parliament and the State and Union territory Legislatures. This is the fourth Conference being held after an interval of nearly two decades and as such was overdue. It is proper that the Conference will deliberate on some of the vital issues of the accountability mechanism which we have developed for legislative oversight of the administration.

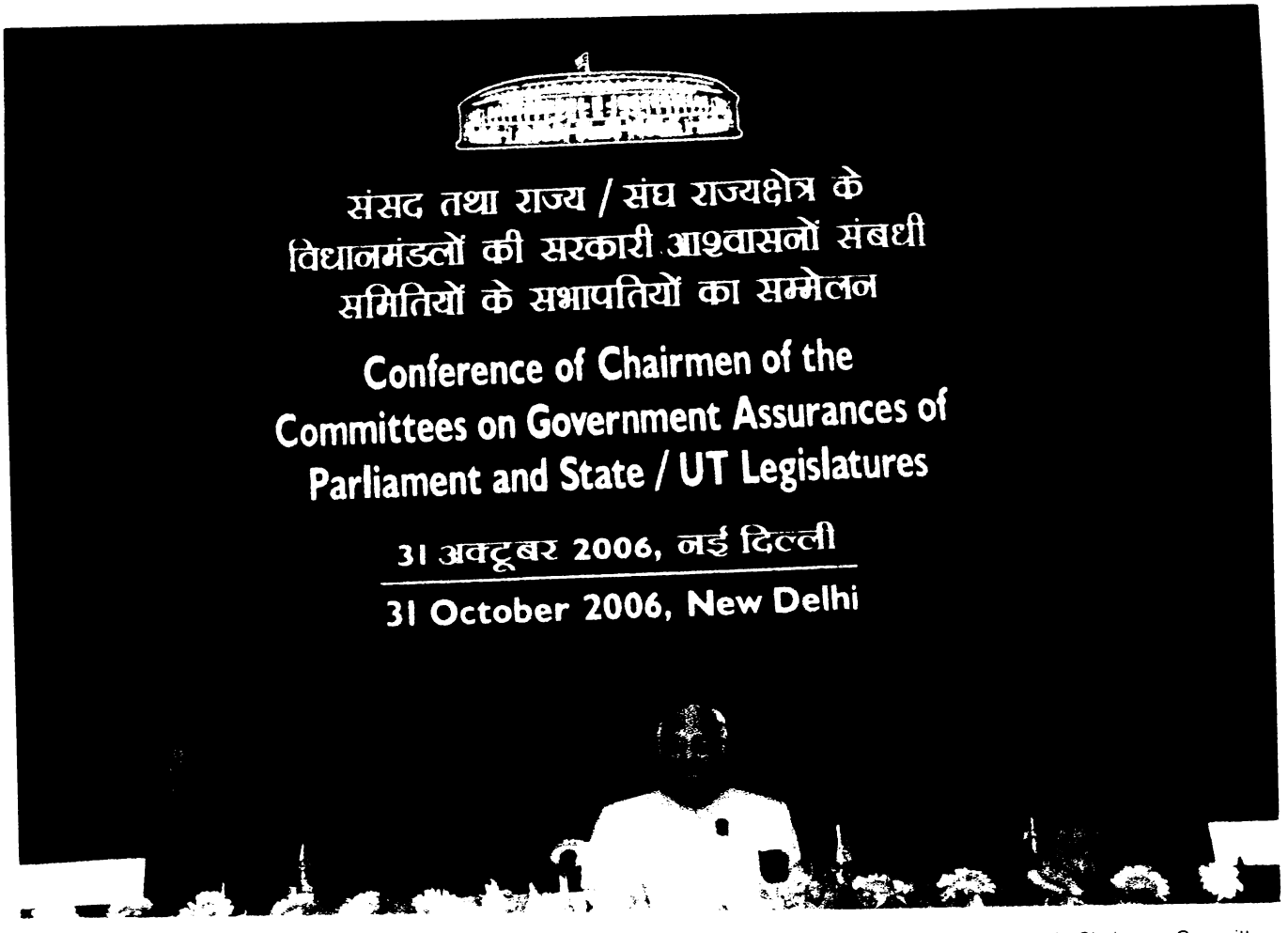
Over the years, transparency, accountability and good governance have become the watchwords for democracies across the world. It is essential to ensure the accountability of the public administration, which sustains parliamentary democracy. Thus, our Legislative Bodies at the Centre and in the States should exercise continuous vigil over the way public policies and programmes are implemented by various Ministries and Departments.

In this context, the Committee on Government Assurances, which

is essentially an Indian innovation, occupies a very important place in the committee system we have evolved. You would recall that this Committee was set up for the first time in 1953 at the initiative of the then Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.V. Mavalankar, for a systematic follow-up of the implementation of ministerial assurances. Over time, this Committee proved to be an indispensable tool in securing Executive accountability, particularly in relation to the implementation of the assurances given by the Ministers on the Floor of the House. Subsequently, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of many States and Union territories also set up such Committee. Today, this Committee has become an effective tool in ensuring ministerial accountability, as it specifically deals with the assurances given by the Ministers while answering questions or making statements on the Floor of the House. What makes this Committee unique is that the assurances proffered or the promises made by the Ministers do not lapse on the dissolution of the elected House as the reconstituted Committee examines all assurances which remained pending at the time of the dissolution of the House.

The Committee on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha, over the years, has made some very important recommendations of far-reaching significance. For instance, in their Ninth Report presented during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, the Committee had very justifiably observed that as States and Union territories were not very forthcoming with the required information, some mechanism should be evolved by the Union Government to make it obligatory on their part to furnish the required information to the Parliament promptly. I am happy to note that under the guidance of Shri Harin Pathak, the Committee on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha has made some significant observations regarding the functioning of various ministries. In its very first report, the Committee has taken the view that in case of charges of corruption, the Ministries should themselves initiate action against erring persons rather than wait for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to finish its investigation. I would like to felicitate the Committees of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for the good work they are doing and urge them to make this accountability mechanism as effective as possible.

I understand from the Agenda of the Conference that you are going to discuss some very important procedural matters. As we all know, culling out of ministerial assurances or undertakings from the proceedings of the House remains the basic and the most vital activity in the functioning of this Committee. In this regard, the directions and the guidelines on what specific expressions used by the Ministers on the floor of the House can be taken to mean assurances have to be very clearly specified to rule out any ambiguity. The staff engaged in this


संसद तथा राज्य / संघ राज्यक्षेत्र के
विधानमंडलों की सरकारी आश्वासनों संबधी
समितियों के सभापतियों का सम्मेलन
Conference of Chairmen of the
Committees on Government Assurances of
Parliament and State / UT Legislatures
31 अक्टूबर 2006, नई दिल्ली
31 October 2006, New Delhi

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivering the Inaugural Address. On his right is Shri Harin Pathak, Chairman, Committee

work should be given proper training to carry out their work efficiently because any omission at this level is bound to have repercussions on the whole mechanism over which rests the Committee's functioning. As such, ways and means to manage this crucial aspect more efficiently need to be explored to make the whole process flawless. I hope, the Conference will come out with concrete suggestions to further streamline the procedure followed in various Legislatures to take note of the ministerial assurances and ensure their timely implementation.

As per the rules of procedure, there is a time frame within which the ministerial assurances are supposed to be implemented. Non-adherence to the time schedule in implementing the assurances frustrates the very purpose of creating this institutional mechanism. I understand, this has been a major problem-area for this Committee in every Legislature and the matter needs careful consideration because in certain cases, due to delay, the assurances may lose their importance and relevance. The Committee is the right forum to discuss and deliberate on the varied mechanisms to improve the system by arriving at a realistic time frame taking into consideration the ground realities in the concerned Legislature and the State and also by considering new mechanisms to identify those officials responsible for the delay and taking appropriate action to avoid such delay. As Chairmen, you have to give a collective thought to the issue.

It is said that in several Legislatures, the Committee has been facing the problem of not receiving the replies from the concerned Departments in a proper manner. Evasive or incomplete replies is a major problem, which the Committee has to deal with effectively. Lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Executive Departments, I am afraid, is totally antithetical to the principle of Executive accountability to the Legislature and should not be countenanced.

One of the Agenda items for consideration before this Conference is – whether the announcements made by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech shall constitute 'Assurances'. One can very well understand that the Finance Minister makes announcements in his Budget Speech with due provision for allocation during that particular financial year. Logically, any such announcement needs to be implemented within the framework of the provisions made in the Budget. The Committee on Government Assurances should deliberate as to what extent a budget announcement by the Finance Minister could be considered as an 'assurance' for the purpose of legislative scrutiny.

A Conference like this provides an opportunity to discuss issues of

common concern to all of us and we can always benefit from the exchange of our experiences. As Chairmen, you have enormous responsibility on your shoulders, and you have not only to ensure smooth conduct of the Committee proceedings but also the timely implementation of its recommendations. It is indeed gratifying that the Committee on Government Assurances in each of our Legislatures has been exercising the utmost vigilance in ensuring that the administration does not evade or escape its responsibility in implementing, without delay, the assurances given by the Ministers in the House. As the Committee on Government Assurances has to deal with a large number of assurances given by the Ministers on the Floor of the House every year, it has to be ensured that adequate procedural and infrastructure support is provided to the Committee along with a properly trained staff.

Friends, the Committee on Government Assurances is always expected to take a balanced view during the scrutiny of ministerial assurances as the Executive may face unforeseen hurdles and, therefore, may take more time than expected in the implementation of the assurances. In our zeal to ensure the accountability of the Executive, we have to be cautious enough not to take a confrontational stance in our functioning. After all, we all are part of the same State structure and the goal of improving the conditions in the country remains common to the Executive as well as to the Legislature. While some of us are entrusted with the responsibility of running the Government, the others are there to ensure that the functioning of the Government remains transparent and action-oriented in accordance with the wishes of the people who are the real masters in our democratic system.

Friends, there is a feeling among a large section of the people, which is articulated from time to time in different fora, including the judiciary, if I may say so, criticising the functioning of the Parliament, and the Executive; thereby, a lot of cynicism is also created in the country, especially, among the youth about the efficacy of the entire democratic structure in our country. It is for us to be conscious about the great responsibility, which the people of the country or the people of different States have given to us. It is our bounden duty to discharge that responsibility in a manner that the public confidence is reposed in us, and the confidence that is reposed in us is proved to be justified.

We have to be role models in the matter of discharge of our duties and functions. If it is felt by the people, especially, the young people that the Parliamentary democracy is not serving the interest of the country, then it will be the saddest day. Therefore, we have to see that we in the Parliament or in the Legislatures – who have the great honour

to be chosen by the people of this country in their judgment – are able to fulfill the urges and aspirations of the people. They have a right to good governance; they have a right to transparent governance; and it is the responsibility of the Government and the Ministers of the Government, who are chosen from amongst the elected members of either Parliament or the Legislature. Therefore, these elected members – in whom the people have reposed their trust – have to discharge their duty, be it as Ministers or members of the Legislatures, in a manner that fulfils and justifies the trust reposed in them. One important part of the ministerial discharge of duties is to govern properly, and they do give assurances in the matter of governance as members raise questions. It is essential that those assurances are fulfilled. Hence, we should work as a watchdog over the functioning of the ministerial responsibility.

As I said earlier, we need not take up an attitude of confrontation, but certainly we should, in a spirit of cooperation, see that the Ministers discharge their duties, and the Government of the day fulfils the obligations they have undertaken for themselves. If we fail to do it, and if the people realize that the whole system is non-productive; that assurances given are not complied with; that we are not acting as proper watchdog; and that we are not looking concerned about the interest of the people, then what is happening today is that other organs are taking upon themselves the responsibility for it as if they were governing this country. Today, it is being said that the policy decisions will be taken elsewhere, and not in the Parliament or the Legislatures. It is being said that implementation is the duty of some other agency, and not that of the Legislature or the Government.

I am only saying that these are trying times. Please take it, as you all do, with utmost seriousness and concern.. There is a tremendous pressure on the whole system of democratic functioning. It was always felt, and is still believed, that the policy decisions are to be taken by the Executive in consultation with the Legislature. Now, it is being taken elsewhere. Implementation is being done elsewhere.

Therefore, please consider these matters, as you are going to do, I have no manner of doubt, with all seriousness. I shall be looking forward to your concrete suggestions, which all of us can consider for implementation not only in different Legislatures but also in the Parliament of India.

Friends, I wish you all the best. I am sure, all of you have gathered here with the highest interest of the country in mind. I am very happy that Shri Harin Pathak, a very dynamic and a very esteemed member

of Parliament is taking interest, with the cooperation of all the other members of the Committee, in discharging the functions of the Committee which fulfils not only the needs of the regulations or rules, but also, act in such manner fulfilling the requirements and expectations of the people. That is the most important thing.

As I said, people are the masters of this country, and our commitment is to uphold the democratic structure for which the people of this country suffered very heavily. That is why, our founding fathers, after tremendous, wide-ranging deliberations, have decided that parliamentary democracy is the best system of governance. I believe that there is no alternative to that.

I hope the discussions and deliberations during this Conference will provide an opportunity to each of you to share your rich experiences and to exchange valuable ideas. I am sure that under the Chairmanship of Shri Hain Pathak, this Conference will go a long way in further improving the functioning and efficacy of the Committee on Government Assurances in our Legislative Bodies. I wish you all the best. I am sure, this will be a great Conference and a very successful one. Thank you very much.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Conference.

Thank you.

2

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

An Orientation Programme for the newly elected members of the Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly was organised by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat and the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat from 3 to 4 October 2006 in Thiruvananthapuram. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address on 3 October 2006 on the occasion.

We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chief Minister, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Ministers, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the State Legislative Assembly, Honorary Advisor, BPST, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ellavarkkum Entte Namaskaram!

May I, at the outset, take this opportunity to heartily congratulate all the honourable members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly on their election as the members of this august House. I am grateful to the Honourable Speaker for his kind invitation to be here today and for the opportunity to meet all of you and to associate myself with this orientation programme.

Friends, you are privileged to be the members of one of the oldest representative bodies in our country. Yours is a legislature with almost hundred and twenty years of history behind it. You are the torchbearers of that parliamentary tradition initiated in 1888, in the erstwhile Travancore State – the first of its kind in an Indian native State. The Assembly's performance record over the years has been remarkable. It has been the successful testing ground for many unique political alternatives and experiments which the rest of the country and the world at large had

watched with great interest. Its legislations in the fields of Land Reforms, Education, Social Welfare, democratic decentralization, among others, are best examples of the utilization of the potential offered by democratic institutions in bringing about socio-economic and political transformation. Kerala can legitimately claim to have taken a lead in these areas in the country. Today, we see its fruits in the records it achieved in literacy, population control, labour welfare, and the relative socio-economic equality visible in the State today.

This beautiful State has given birth to many outstanding leaders and social reformers who played a crucial role in emancipating the underprivileged sections of society. Kerala has also been home to many eminent legislators and distinguished administrators who have helped strengthen our parliamentary traditions. Several of your legislators have gone on to become honourable members of Parliament and I have had occasion to see for myself how effective many of them have been as representatives of the people of this State. As the elected representatives of such a great people, you have before you onerous responsibility as also a challenge to live up to the expectations of the masses.

I am indeed happy that the Kerala Legislative Assembly, along with the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, holds more number of sittings, than most other State Legislatures, which is undoubtedly a positive aspect, as fewer sittings of Legislatures have been a matter of concern repeatedly expressed by the Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. I am also happy to find that the Kerala State Legislature has set up a Training Cell here with a view to imparting and nurturing professional efficiency in parliamentary practices and procedures to the legislators. I am glad to know that the work on a Legislature Museum is also in progress. As such, the Kerala Legislature has shown itself to be capable of innovation, great responsiveness, adaptation and resilience.

Friends, it is a matter of privilege and a great honour to be a representative of the people. But, at the same time, this privilege carries with it a great deal of responsibility as well. In our parliamentary democracy, elected representatives have many roles to play. The competing demands – from one's Party, from the Assembly, from the Constituency – make the public life of a member really challenging. A legislator has always to be on the job, whether in his constituency or in the House or elsewhere in the society. It is expected of him or her to be ever sensitive and responsive to the problems and concerns of the people, particularly of his or her constituency. A member has to give voice to their grievances, hardships and problems by raising them on

the floor of the Legislature so that the Government can take corrective measures for their redressal. He is the link between the people who have elected him and the Legislature of which he is a member and between the people and the Government, on the other.

When one files a nomination paper in an election, be it for the Parliament or the State Assembly, one implicitly gives an undertaking to the people that if elected, he or she will try to be their worthy representative and will make endeavour to serve the cause of the people and the nation honestly, sincerely and to the best of his or her ability. When the voters cast their votes, they express their hopes and aspirations that through the electoral process, the country will make progress and the peoples' problems will be solved by their representatives. Thus, there is an express undertaking by an elected representative to his or her electorate and through them to the nation that he or she will discharge their duties to the best of his or her ability. Membership of the House does not make the elected representative a superior class of person and his success depends on the assumption of responsibility to serve the people and the nation to the best of the member's capacity. To do so, one has to be true and faithful to the principles of Parliamentary Democracy and dedicated and committed to the cause of the people all the time. To play a meaningful role as legislators, we must understand the place of a Legislative Assembly in our polity. The Constitution of India places it at the centre of governance in a State and contemplates it as the primary instrument of socio-economic change.

Besides being a representative of the Party, a legislator represents the voice of the people on the floor of the House and it is his duty to intervene to speed up the implementation of policies and programmes meant for the welfare and betterment of the common masses. Therefore, they must constantly relate to their electorates – the ultimate masters and ascertain their urges and aspirations and endeavour to fulfil them. Gandhiji once said, and I quote:

> It is an illusion to think that the MLAs are the guides of the voters. Voters do not send representatives to the Assemblies in order to be guided by them. On the contrary, they are sent there loyally to carry out the people's wishes. The people, are, therefore, the guides, not the MLAs. The latter are servants, the former masters. Unquote.

Since a member enjoys the confidence of the constituency he represents, he should play an important role in creating positive public awareness on various problems being faced by his constituents. Once elected, you not only represent those who have seemingly voted for you

but your entire constituency. Of course, as members of political parties we are guided by our respective Party's manifesto and policies but there are a large number of issues of development and public welfare, which transcend all political barriers and we should work jointly for the benefit of the people, the State and the country.

I would like to emphasize here that a legislator's performance in the House depends on how seriously he identifies various social and economic requirements of his constituents, what strategies he employs to reconcile individual aspirations with the wider goals of society and the nation, and how forcefully he articulates them on the floor of the House. It is his own role-perception, his vision, initiative and expertise that would help him in harmonizing the varied urges and aspirations of his electorate in a purposive manner. For being an effective legislator, you have to feel the pulse of the people. Not only a sound understanding of a wide range of issues is important, but you should also develop an aptitude to grasp and comprehend various issues that come up for deliberations on the floor of the House. It may not be possible for an individual member to intervene on every subject which comes before the House. What is important is to be well-prepared before you participate in any debate. You should have the ability to forcefully and logically present the facts and figures in your speech and distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant. Avoid verbosity and make your presentation lucid and to the point. You needn't be an expert on all subjects or even on any subject, but a certain level of general awareness is expected of you and an in-depth knowledge of some subjects will certainly help you in making your contributions more effective. Developing some degree of expertise in subjects of your choice should, therefore, be pursued from the beginning.

It is essential for the members to be well conversant with the Rules and Procedure of the House regarding conduct of business. Rules provide a number of procedural devices available to the members to raise various issues in the House. One has to be sincere and hard working and should also seek and utilise opportunity to raise issues in the House, for which it is essential to have a sound understanding of rules. As it is said 'those who play the game by the rule, rule the game'. It is only when members get well acquainted with the rules of procedure that members get confidence and their participation in the proceedings of the House become effective and meaningful.

The members should fully realise the importance of the Question Hour. It is one of the important privileges of a legislator to ask questions to the Executive for ensuring the accountability of the

Executive to the Legislature. It is a sacred duty for the members not to barter away this privilege for any consideration other than the larger and transparent interest of the constituents and that of the State as a whole.

In addition to the business of the House, legislators get ample opportunities to participate effectively in the Committees. The Committee work offers scope for positive and meaningful contribution to an industrious member. The role of Committees is as important from the viewpoint of surveillance, as for the opportunity it provides to the individual legistator. Membership of the Committees calls for some degree of specialisation among the members in areas or interest to them. Work in the Committees can also help them in developing expertise and proficiency in the techniques of inquiry into the complex working of the Government Departments. Therefore, members should fully involve themselves in the Committee work, and I can assure you that the experience in Committees will be highly satisfying and rewarding. In my experience, I have seen that the members generally act in a non-partisan and professional manner while functioning in the Committees.

If I may suggest to the new members, it is always extremely helpful to observe the performance of the senior Legislators in the House. I remember as a new member in the Lok Sabha, more than three and a half decades back, by sitting quietly in the House I tried to understand the nuances of the functioning of the Parliament and also tried to learn how to articulate one's views on different subjects and how rules can be utilized for ventilating the grievances of the people and to seek redressal of the same. Even if you are not able to participate, it is always advisable to remain present in the House and watch the performance of well-known and leading members, which provides a lesson in itself.

It is important to remember that parliamentary practices, procedures and conventions are all meant to provide for orderly and expeditious transaction of business. The imperative of maintaining discipline and decorum in the House and the observance of rules, conventions and etiquette can hardly be over-emphasised. Dissent is a recognized democratic expression, but it should be expressed with decency and within the contours and parameters of parliamentary devices. Parliamentary democracy is based on the premise that the minority accepts the decisions of the majority while the majority respects the views of the minority. It should be the endeavour of every legislator to ensure that the content and the quality of debates that take place in the chambers should be of a high order befitting their status as people's institutions.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, in one of his renowned expositions in the Lok Sabha, had observed:

> Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of cooperation, of self-discipline, of self-restraint. It is obvious that a House like this cannot perform any functions without a spirit of cooperation, without a large measure of restraint and self-discipline in each group.

Sometimes you may find that those in the Government are not showing the desired responsiveness to the grievances presented. There may be issues that agitate the minds of the members and naturally they want to bring these to the notice of the House. Sometimes, you may feel frustrated about the lack of opportunities for participating effectively in the proceedings. But remember that even to avail that limited opportunity you have to let the House to function.

It does not behove a people's representative to indulge in unruly behaviour or to use unparliamentary language on the floor of the House. Frequent adjournments of the House and unruly behaviour by the members create a negative impression in the minds of the people, particularly when proceedings in many Legislatures are now being telecast live. Such incidents can only accentuate the feeling of cynicism among the citizens, particularly among the youth about the viability of our system of governance itself. We all must bear in mind that the most important imponderable that goes into the sustenance of the system is the people's faith in the efficacy of the system as the ideal one to address their hopes and concerns.

The Opposition, undoubtedly, has a vital role to play in any Parliamentary Democracy. As a matter of fact, parliamentary system operates better when there is a vigilant and responsible Opposition. It is entitled to articulate its programmes and policies as is the Government, but when issues having a bearing on the larger interests of the State come up, it is expected that the House as a whole act in a non-partisan manner. The only test case should be whether the issue in question is consistent with the people's rights and interest.

Always remember that the Presiding Officer is the custodian of the rights and privileges of the members. The Chair endeavours to transact the business of the House through the rules of procedure, established conventions, traditions, so that it functions properly. The Chair represents the dignity of the House and that being so, it is imperative that members show utmost respect to the Presiding Officer. If the Legislature

has to transact business in a smooth, efficient and effective manner, the Chair needs unstinted cooperation from all sections of the House. Trying to raise matters without the permission of the Chair or interrupting the listed business of the House militates against accepted parliamentary norms and behaviour.

An important quality required in a Legislator is the habit of listening. Your willingness to listen to the others' point of view, especially that of your opponents is the best test case for your own democratic credentials. You should listen to others' views without interruption and then refute them, if you want to, with cogent reasons. Don't ever forget that democracy is a system of alternatives—of alternative parties, alternative policies, alternative principles, alternative approaches and alternative leaders. In a democracy, today's Opposition Party could be tomorrow's Ruling Party and *vice-versa*. In the case of Kerala, perhaps, it is one of the biggest political truths. This fact enjoins upon us that we have to display a very high degree of tolerance of other people, parties, religions, views and principles. Tolerance is the basic tenet of democracy. Parliamentary democracy has a very high tradition of tolerance and resilience.

As Gandhiji once said, and I quote:

> Evolution of democracy is not possible if we are not prepared to hear the other side. We shut the doors of reason when we refuse to listen to our opponents or, having listened, make fun of them. If intolerance becomes a habit, we run the risk of missing the truth. Unquote.

Our Parliament has recently enacted the Right to Information Act which is playing a significant role in bringing about transparency and accountability in our executive bodies. Your State was among the pioneers in introducing such a law. In that context too, we need to be ever vigilant about the rising expectations of the people. More importantly, we must be fully conversant with the ideas and issues which form the basis of public policies so that the constituents could be educated about the strengths and weaknesses of the Executive actions.

Friends, what we need for the successful working of the parliamentary democracy is more and more legislators with skill, ability, wisdom and a high degree of integrity. Nothing can effectively substitute these essential pre-requisites. Welfare of the people, who are our real masters, should be the ultimate and common goal. Every member of the legislature should come to be known, for his/her competence, integrity, discipline and for being dedicated to the common cause–

namely the welfare of the people who have bestowed on them the great responsibility of representing them in the governance of the society. Legislators as leaders of society have the bounden duty to help in realizing the dreams of our people. Remember, 'a leader is a person who knows the way, who shows the way and who goes the way.'

Kerala, as I said earlier, has been a pioneer and a path-breaker in diverse fields among the States of the country. The remarkable achievements it has to its credit have been made possible also by the inspiring leadership provided by this State Legislature and your illustrious predecessors. Today, you have new challenges facing the State and the people. To convert these challenges into opportunities, it is important that the elected representatives, as trustees of the will of the people, take a proactive stance and provide their inputs, insights and grassroots experiences into decision-making and policy formulation. The members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly today have a rich legacy to live up to. I am sure, all of you are fully conscious of it and will strive ceaselessly to honour your solemn commitment to the people of Kerala.

As I said in the Lok Sabha, on the day I had the great honour of being elected as the Speaker that 'we shall perform the task assigned to us to the best of our ability and with sincerity. We should ask ourselves when the House rises for the day every evening as to what we have done during the day for the country and for the people and whether we have justified the people's faith in sending us here. Nothing will give us more satisfaction than the feeling that we have tried and done our best.' That is my humble message to all the people's Representatives.

Honourable members, I am indeed honoured that all of you have made it convenient to attend this Orientation Programme. I understand that in the next two days, you will have interaction with eminent legislators on various aspects of legislative practices and procedures. I trust that these interactive sessions will provide all of you with a deeper insight into the operational dynamics of our varied legislative roles which will help you to become more effective legislators. I congratulate all of you once again on your election to the State Legislative Assembly and wish you all the best in all your endeavours in the service of the people. I am grateful to the Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala and to the Honourable Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, for the honour extended to me.

I would also like to compliment the State Legislative Assembly

Secretariat and the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for organizing this Orientation Programme.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Orientation Programme for the newly-elected members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Thank you.

3

UNVEILING OF STATUES AND PORTRAITS IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 5 December 2006, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat unveiled the statues of Shri Vithalbhai Patel and Shri Indrajit Gupta and portraits of Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh and Shri Biju Patnaik in the precincts of the Parliament House.

Shri Vithalbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly, was an epitome of courage and patriotism. He was the first Indian to have ascended to that illustrious position. In him, the House had 'a fearless Speaker', who with his great qualities of impartiality and uprighteousness enhanced the prestige of the Chair and the dignity of the House. Shri Vithalbhai Patel had great reverence for the democratic institutions and their traditions, and resolute faith in the parliamentary form of Government. As President of the Assembly, he spoke and wrote fearlessly and unequivocally on legislative measures which were sought to be imposed on the Assembly by the Executive, which he considered detrimental to the national cause. His stellar role in the national affairs, his rich and varied experience as a legal luminary and as an eminent parliamentarian, mark him out as one of the outstanding leaders of the country. The nine-feet high bronze statue of Shri Vithalbhai Patel, sculpted by the well-known sculptor, Shri Ram V. Sutar was donated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Shri Indrajit Gupta, an outstanding leader of the Communist movement, was a committed social activist, an active trade union leader and a peerless parliamentarian who have had the distinction of serving eleven terms in the Lok Sabha. Shri Gupta was a powerful communicator. His oratorical skill was legendary and he could speak with authority on an array of subjects. One of the towering personalities who adorned the Indian Parliament, Shri Gupta was an adept administrator and a distinguished mass leader who left a distinct mark in the society and in the polity with his innate simplicity, commitment and sincerity. He symbolized politics based on values and principles. In recognition of his splendid contributions towards strengthening of parliamentary democracy and parliamentary institutions of the country, Indrajit Gupta was conferred the first Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant

Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in the year 1992. Shri Indrajit Gupta was ever dedicated to the uplift of the poor and the destitute and always fought for the vulnerable sections of the society. The nine-feet high bronze statue of Shri Indrajit Gupta, sculpted by the well-known sculptor, Shri Debabrata Chakraborty was donated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Acharya Jiwantram Bhagwandas Kripalani popularly known as Acharya Kripalani, was one of the towering personalities of the Indian freedom struggle and our national life. By his infinite courage and wisdom, he endeared himself to the people of the country. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly and was entrusted with the Chairmanship of the important Sub-Committee, namely the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee. He was a multi-faceted personality—a Gandhian, parliamentarian, academician, writer, and above all, a votary of value-based politics. He was also renowned for his crusade both within and outside Parliament for building a just, progressive and prosperous society. The portrait of Acharya J.B. Kripalani painted by Shri Sumaanav, was donated by the Gandhi Ashram, Lucknow and the Acharya Kripalani Memorial Trust, Delhi.

Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya was one among the most esteemed leaders of the country who had uncompromising convictions, impeccable honesty and transparent sincerity. In his personality were combined a serious concern for the complex problems of an society and a love of literature and music..... In all situations, in and out of office, Shri Sanjivayya bore himself with quite dignity. His selfless commitment for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society and the working class was reflected in all his actions whether as a Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh or as a Union Minister. The portrait of Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya, painted by Shri Hussainappa, was donated by Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya Smarak Seva Samstha, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

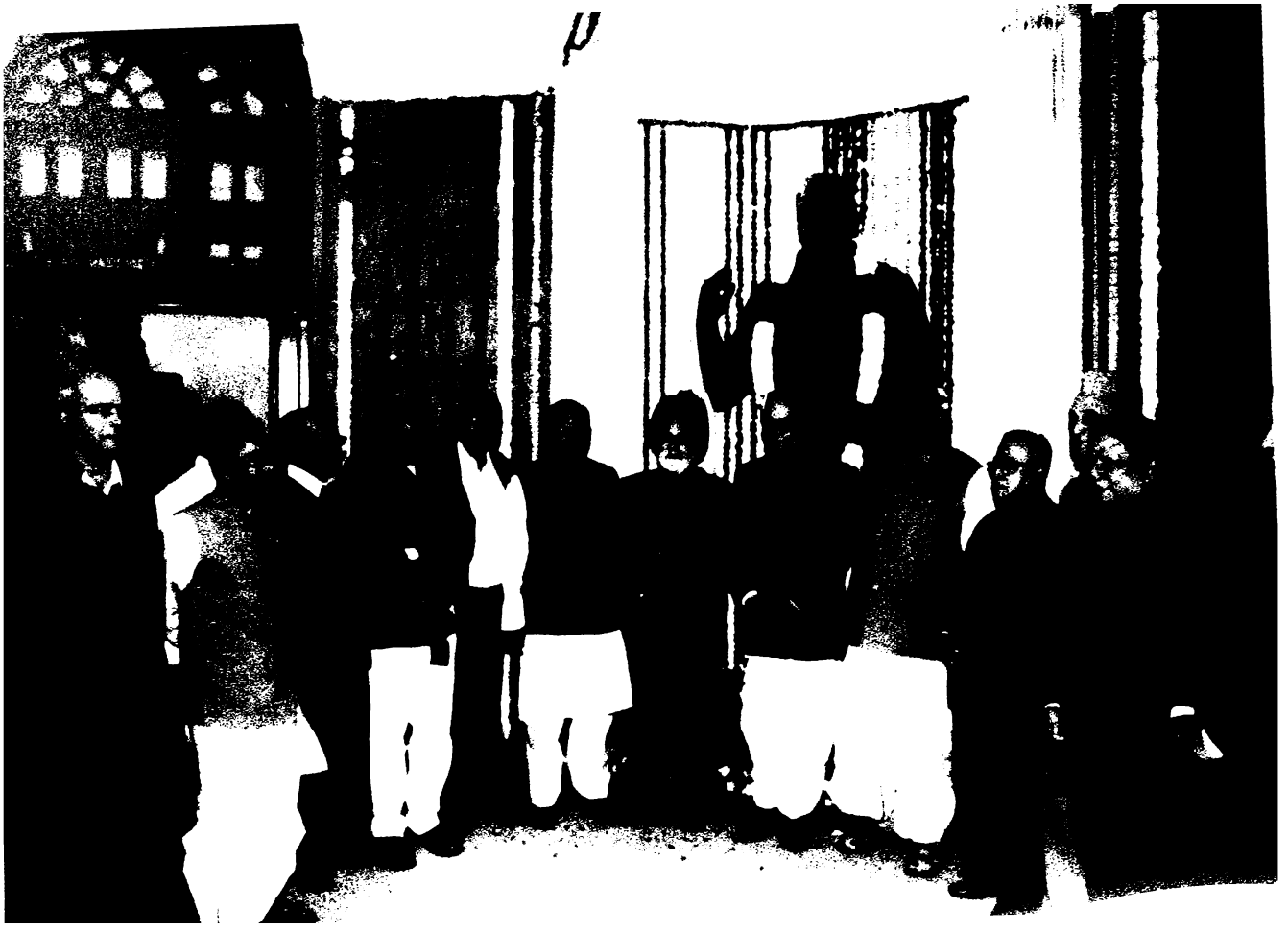
Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, affectionately known as *"Bhausaheb"*, was an eminent educationist, renowned social worker and selfless political leader. His association with the Indian Parliament began in 1946 when he became a Member of the Constituent Assembly and subsequently of the Provisional Parliament of India. Later, he had had the distinction of serving the First, Second and Third Lok Sabhas. Dr. Deshmukh always identified himself with the common people and devoted his entire life for the welfare and development of the backward classes, the downtrodden and particularly the farmers. The portrait of Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, painted by Shri Ganesh Deshmukh, was donated by the Government of Maharashtra.

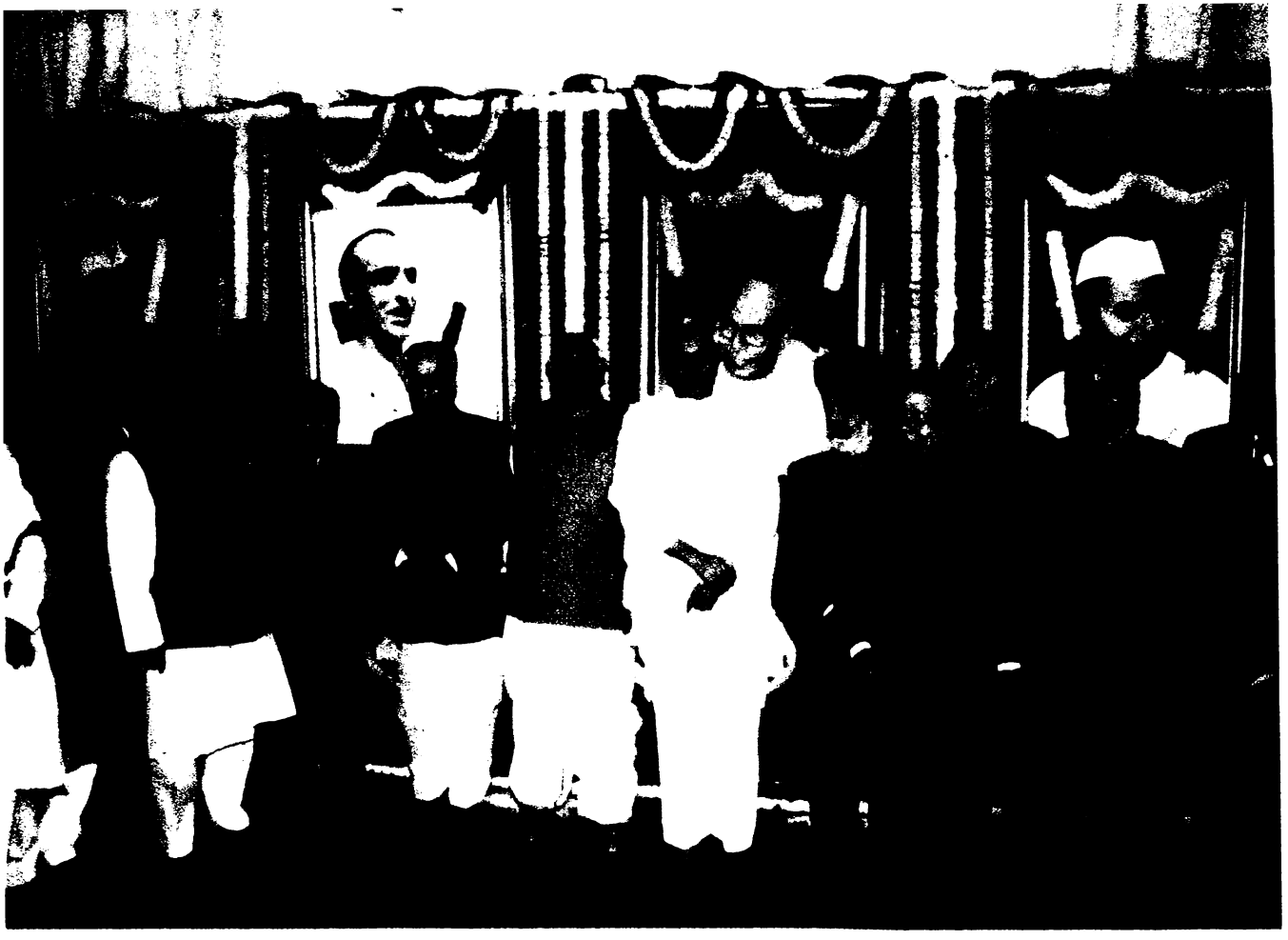
Shri Bijayananda Patnaik, affectionately known as *Biju Patnaik*, strode like a colossus in the politics and public life of Orissa and played an important role in the national life and politics as well. During his long innings in Public life, Biju Patnaik was elected time and again to the Orissa Legislative Assembly as also to both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. He also adorned the office of the Chief Minister of Orissa twice. His life was an extraordinary saga of adventure, sacrifice, valour and prowess. A nationalist to the core, Shri Biju Patnaik was a dynamic political and social leader who was deeply committed to the national cause, public welfare and development. He was a leader of the masses who articulated their concerns in the chambers of the nation's representative institutions. The portrait of Biju Patnaik, painted by Shri Chandramani Biswal, was donated by the Government of Orissa.

The function was attended, among others, by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha; Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the House and Minister of External Affairs; Union Ministers, Shri K. Rehman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa; Shri Manohar Joshi, former Speaker of Lok Sabha; several sitting and former members of Parliament and other distinguished guests.

The Vice-President and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, also released booklets, both in English and Hindi, containing the profiles of the six leaders brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on the occasion.

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Shri Vithalbhai Patel by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in Parliament House





Dignitaries after the unveiling of the portraits of Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Bijayananda Patnaik and Damodaram Sanjivayya by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in Parliament House

4

UNVEILING OF THE STATUES OF SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA AND DR. M.G. RAMACHANDRAN IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 7 December 2006, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, unveiled the statues of Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Dr. M.G. Ramachandran in the precincts of the Parliament House.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta, one of the leading luminaries of the Communist movement in India, was an outstanding parliamentarian, a prolific writer and a gifted orator. He took an active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was literally a champion of the toiling millions and a great defender of the downtrodden and the oppressed. Shri Gupta, who was rightly referred to as 'the stormy petrel' of the Rajya Sabha, had complete mastery over parliamentary rules and procedures. He was admired by friend and foe alike for his rare and exceptional qualities as a parliamentarian. Shri Bhupesh Gupta strongly advocated the implementation of minimum wages, regular employment and legislation to protect the weaker sections and to improve their living and working conditions. This sincere and single-minded dedication marked his entire political life and gave it a character of its own.

The bronze statue of Shri Bhupesh Gupta, 9-feet in height, was sculpted by the well-known sculptor Shri Debabrata Chakraborty and was donated by the Communist Party of India.

Bharat Ratna Dr. M. G. Ramachandran, known as *Puratchi Thalaivar* (Revolutionary Leader) was undoubtedly one of the illustrious leaders of modern India. Popularly called as M.G.R., he always thought for the masses and strived for their betterment and welfare particularly the underprivileged and the impoverished. He was a charismatic political leader, a nationalist to the core and a visionary Chief Minister. Dr. M.G.R., who was a renowned actor, propagated through his films high ideals which should take root among the people. The period of his Chief Ministership is recognized for his contribution for the growth of Higher Education, systematic rural development, women's welfare schemes, mid-day meal scheme and reservation for weaker sections in the Government service. One of the most remarkable personalities of modern India, MGR was a patriot imbued with profound pride in the

country's heritage, for whom the unity of the nation was sacrosanct and preserving her integrity a sacred duty. He rose above all narrow divisions and petty loyalties.

The bronze statue of Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, 9-feet in height, was sculpted by the well-known sculptor Shri Mani Nagappa and was donated by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

The function to mark the occasion was attended, among others, by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha and External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; Shri L.K Advani, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; Shri K. Rehman Khan, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Sarvashri P. Chidambaram, Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Jairam Ramesh, Union Ministers; Dr. J. Jayalalitha, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; Shri Thambi Durai, former Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, ICCR; several sitting and former members of Parliament. Shri P.D.T. Achary and Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretaries-General of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, respectively also attended the function.

The booklets containing the profile of Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Dr. M.G. Ramachandran brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, were also released on the occasion.

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Dr. M.G. Ramachandran by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in Parliament House

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Shri Bhupesh Gupta by the Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Somnath Chatterjee in the Parliament House

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Shri Murasoli Maran by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh in Parliament House

5

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF SHRI MURASOLI MARAN IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 8 December 2006, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, unveiled the statue of Shri Murasoli Maran in the precincts of the Parliament House.

Shri Murasoli Maran was a multi-faceted personality who commanded immense respect and built up a formidable reputation in various fields like politics, journalism, literature, world of cinema, etc. Shri Maran was an outstanding parliamentarian and his innings in the Parliament was one of the longest, as he continued to be a member from 1967 to 2003. He strongly believed in adhering to the established parliamentary norms and conventions. His administrative skills, leadership qualities and deep understanding of various issues came out prominently during his stint in the Union Government on different occasions. He provided effective leadership to the different Ministries he headed from time to time. Shri Maran advocated reforms with a human face.

The bronze statue of Shri Murasoli Maran, 9-feet in height, was sculpted by the well-known sculptor Shri S. Deenadayalan and was donated by Shri T.R. Baalu, Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

The function of unveiling the statue of Shri Murasoli Maran was attended, among others, by Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha; Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA); Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the House in Lok Sabha and External Affairs Minister; Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha; Union Ministers; the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M. Karunanidhi; Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman ICCR; members of Parliament and former members; and other distinguished guests.

The booklets containing the profile of Shri Murasoli Maran brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, were also released on the occasion.

6

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 115th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Geneva, Switzerland: The 115th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held at Geneva, Switzerland from 16 to 18 October 2006.

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Assembly was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The other members of the Delegation were: the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; Sarvashri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo; Mohammad Salim; Tapir Gao; Surendra Lath; and Smt. Archana Nayak, all members of Parliament; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain. Shri Amitabh Mukhopadhyay, Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Assembly mainly held deliberations on the following subjects and adopted resolutions thereon:

- Cooperation between Parliaments and the United Nations in promoting world peace, particularly from the perspectives of the fight against terrorism and the achievement of greater energy security (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security);
- The role of Parliaments in overseeing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to the problem of debt and the eradication of poverty and corruption (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade);
- Missing persons (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights); and
- The announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its nuclear weapons test and the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime (Adopted as Emergency Item)

Shri Mohammad Salim, MP represented India in the Drafting

Committee on the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of 6th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in Doha, Qatar: The Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of 6th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies was held at Doha, Qatar from 29 October to 1 November 2006.

Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha represented the Indian Parliament at the Forum.

The overall theme of the Forum was "Dialogue, Tolerance and Freedom of Expression as the Cornerstones of Democracy". Besides, two parallel workshops on "Representation, Accessibility, Accountability and Transparency to Ensure Inclusive Decision-making" and "Towards Greater Effectiveness of Parliaments" were also deliberated upon during the Forum.

Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO at Geneva: The Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO was held at Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2006. The Session was intended primarily for Parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade in their respective Parliaments. A three member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Rupchand Pal, MP comprised of Shri R. Prabhu, MP and Shri Arun Jaitley, MP. Shri S. Bal Shekar Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The principal objective of the Session was to enhance external transparency of the WTO and make this inter-governmental organization accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people. The following themes were discussed during the Session:

- Lessons to be learnt from the history of multilateral trade negotiations under WTO auspices; and
- Multilateralism and bilateralism in trade policy.

Seminar on the 'Role of Parliamentary Committees in Mainstreaming Gender and Promoting the Status of Women' at Geneva, Switzerland: The Seminar on the "Role of Parliamentary Committees in Mainstreaming Gender and Promoting the Status of Women" was held at Geneva from 4 to 6 December 2006. A three-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Smt. Krishna Tirath, MP and Chairperson of the Committee on Empowerment of Women comprised Smt. Manorama Madhwaraj, MP

and Miss Anusuiya Uikey, MP. Shri Abhijit Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Seminar sought to identify ways in which the functioning of Parliamentary Committees dealing with gender equality and the status of women can be enhanced and policy and legislative outcomes bolstered to promote gender equality. It provided a forum for Chairpersons and members of these Committees to share national experiences and debate issues relating to:

- The functioning of the Parliamentary Committees dealing with gender equality, including their mandates, membership and working methods;
- Best practices and recommendations on how Parliaments and Committees can effectively address gender issues at the national level;
- Lessons learned regarding the development of policy and legislation to promote gender equality and support mainstreaming; and
- Relations between Committees and other partners to enhance their work.

Visit of Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, CPA, Asia Region Executive Committee to India: Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan and Chairman, CPA Asia Region Executive Committee visited India from 13 to 20 December 2006. The Chairman was accompanied by Mr. Raja Muhammad Amin, Secretary, Senate of Pakistan and Regional Secretary and other officers of the Senate Secretariat.

During the visit Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Rahman Khan. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted lunch in his honour. During the visit, Mr. Soomro discussed several issues concerning Asia and India Regions of CPA.

The Delegation also visited Jaipur, Ajmer and Panipat.

Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Government Assurances of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures: A Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Government Assurances of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures was held on 31 October 2006. The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in the

Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. Shri Harin Pathak, Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference presided over the Conference. The Chairmen of Committees on Government Assurances of almost all the State/UT Legislatures participated in the Conference.

The following subjects were discussed at the Conference:

- Ministers should avoid giving whimsical assurances;
- Whether the announcement made by the Finance Ministers in his Budget Speech shall constitute assurances?;
- Whether it should be proper that the Ministers and the Departmental representative concerned take note of the assurances to avoid delay, as and when they are given and started taking action on them without waiting for the initiative from the Legislature Secretariat?;
- To avoid delay in taking action on assurances, it would be desirable that the assurances culled out by the Legislature Secretariat may be sent to the Department concerned without waiting for the approval of the Committee;
- Fixation of time limit in respect of furnishing the replies;
- There should be a specific time-frame for implementation of the Government assurances;
- Fixation of time limit in respect of sending the replies;
- Time limit for implementation of assurances;
- Steps to be taken to clear the pendency of the assurances;
- Steps to be taken for quick implementation of assurances;
- Delay in furnishing replies;
- Incomplete and evasive replies;
- No follow-up action is taken on the recommendations of the Committee;
- To ensure fulfillment of assurances before the next session;
- Inordinate delay/non-implementation of assurances given by the Ministers on the floor of the House;
- Necessity to lay down restrictions for fulfilling the assurances given in the House of Legislature by the concerned Ministers within the prescribed period and to take punitive action against the concerned officials in case the said assurances are not fulfilled within the prescribed period by fixing their responsibility;

- Necessity of fulfilling the assurances on priority basis by preparing a separate list thereof which are given in accordance with the directions of the Presiding Officers during deliberations held on various issues in the House during the session period;
- What course of action should be adopted by the Committee in case of delay in implementation of an assurance where for the execution of such assurance, the Department concerned has to depend upon other Departments, who are not primarily responsible for the work?;
- Non-implementation of an assurance within a reasonable time when the Committee is not satisfied with the reasons advanced by the Department for non-fulfilment of the assurance– what course of action is open to the Committee for getting it implemented?;
- The Government Department sometimes expresses their inability to implement an assurance for want of necessary funds, what should be done in such cases?;
- Assurances once given by the Minister on the floor of the House-whether the Department can unilaterally change or abandon the implementation of the assurances without prior information to the Committee?;
- To make Government more accountable to the Committee with regard to taking expeditious action for fulfilling the assurances given in the Assembly;
- The Committee should explicitly be empowered to summon, if necessary, the concerned Minister who made the assurances on the floor of the Legislature on behalf of the Government;
- To avoid undue delay in fulfilment of assurances and making Government more accountable to the Committee whether it is desirable that the Minister shall make a statement in the House after every six months about the status of the pending assurances?; and
- Infrastructural set-up in the Legislature Secretariats for the Committee on Government Assurances;

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the

Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006.

Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: On the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, a function was held on 2 October 2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Shri Namo Narain Meena; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 2006. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a function was held on 5 November 2006. The Leader of the House and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November

2006. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Shri Namo Narain Meena; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Smt. Indira Gandhi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 2006. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the House and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of Defence, Shri A.K. Antony; the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora; the Minister of Mines, Shri Sis Ram Ola; the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Meira Kumar; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri P.K. Bansal; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 2006. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; members of

Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 2006. The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 2006. Former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a function was held on 25 December 2006. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil and others paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

European Parliament: Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European Parliament accompanied by five officials of the European Parliament visited India from 30 September to 6 October 2006.

On 30 September 2006, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Delegation the same evening.

On 5 October 2006, besides meeting the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Delegation called on the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram, and the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Kamal Nath. Later during the day, the Delegation had a meeting with the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs. The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in honour of the visiting Delegation.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad.

Iceland: A 7–member Parliamentary Delegation from Iceland led by Ms. Solveig Petursdottir, President of *Althingi* (Parliament) of Iceland visited India from 18 to 25 November 2006.

On 20 November 2006, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee which was followed by lunch hosted by him in honour of the visiting Delegation. The Delegation also called on the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat the same day.

On 21 November 2006, the Delegation had a meeting with the members of the Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Bangalore and Mumbai.

Morocco: A 13–member Parliamentary Delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco led by Mr. Abdelwahad Radi, President of the House of Representatives visited India from 27 November to 1 December 2006.

On 27 November 2006, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee which was followed by a banquet hosted by him in honour of the visiting Delegation. The Delegation also called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat the same day.

On 28 November 2006, the Delegation had a meeting with the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

On 30 November 2006, the Delegation called on the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Later during the day, the Delegation had a meeting with the India–Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Bashistha Narain Singh, MP and Vice-President of the Group. The meeting was followed by dinner hosted by India–Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group in honour of the Delegation.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

Namibia: A 9–member Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Namibia led by Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia visited India from 10 to 16 December 2006.

On 11 December 2006, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee which was followed by a banquet hosted by him in honour of the visiting Delegation. The Delegation also called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi the same day. Later, the Delegation had a meeting with the Chairman and the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

On 12 December 2006, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. The Namibian Delegation met the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Mumbai.

Armenia: A 10–member Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Armenia led by Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia visited India from 13 to 17 December 2006.

On 13 December 2006, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee which was followed by a banquet hosted by him in honour of the visiting Delegation.

On 14 December 2006, the Delegation called on the Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani. The Delegation also had a meeting with the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

On 15 December 2006, the Delegation called on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Smt. Sheila Dikshit.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

India-Israel: A meeting of India-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, MP and President of the Group with Prof. Shlomo Breznitz, MP and Chairman of Israel-India Parliamentarian Friendship Association was held on 3 November 2006.

India-Republic of Korea: A meeting of India-Republic of Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Smt. Krishna Tirath, MP and President of the Group with the visiting Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Korea headed by Mr. Nam Kyung-pil, President, Grand National Party was held on 17 November 2006. The meeting was followed by a lunch hosted by the President of India-Republic of Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group in honour of the visiting Delegation.

India-United Kingdom: A meeting of India-United Kingdom Parliamentary Friendship Group with the visiting Parliamentary Delegation from United Kingdom headed by Mr. Mike Gapes, MP and Chairman of the Foreign

Affairs Committee was held on 27 November 2006. The Indian side was led by Shri Basudeb Acharia, MP and Vice-President of the Group. The meeting was followed by a lunch hosted by the Vice-President of the India-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group in honour of the visiting Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series for Members of Parliament: As part of the Lecture Series for members of Parliament, which was started during the Fifth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the following Lecture Sessions were organized:

(i) Lecture on "Issues Relating to Water Conservation and Management" by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member of Parliament was held on 7 December 2006 and was attended by 32 members of Parliament; and

(ii) Lecture on "Globalisation and Democracy" by Lord Meghnad Desai, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics was held on 14 December 2006 and was attended by 18 members of Parliament.

Study Visits: During the period, the following Study Visits were conducted by the Bureau: (i) Visit by 9-member Delegation of legislators from the Upper Nile State of Sudan from 27 November to 8 December 2006; (ii) Visit by two officers from the South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADCPF) from 29 November to 1 December 2006; (iii) Visit by a 2-member Parliamentary Delegation from Lesotho from 11 to 14 December 2006; and (iv) Visit by a 13-member Parliamentary Delegation from Indonesia on 18 December 2006. In addition, eight other Study Visits for the benefit of officials/ students/trainees of various organizations/institutes/schools were organized. A total of 411 participants attended these visits.

Orientation Programme for Members of Kerala Legislative Assembly: An Orientation Programme for the members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly was organized from 3 to 4 October 2006 in Thiruvananthapuram. The Programme, attended by 100 members of the State Legislative Assembly, was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Seminar: A National Seminar on the 'Legislatures and Media: Reflections on Role and Relationship' was organized on 15 December 2006, which was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Seminar was attended by 130 media persons.

International Training Programme: The 22nd Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP) for foreign parliamentary officials was conducted from 3 November to 1 December 2006. A total of 46 participants from 23 countries attended the programme.

Appreciation Courses: Three Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Professors/Lecturers of Universities/Colleges from 3 to 6 October 2006, attended by 51 participants; (ii) Probationers of Indian Police Service from 4 to 8 December 2006, attended by 78 probationers; and (iii) Senior Audit and Accounts Officers from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 18 to 22 December 2006, attended by 48 participants.

Training Programmes: During the period, (i) A Specialized Training Programme for officials of the National Assembly of Afghanistan on Information and Communication Technologies (ITC) was organized from 3 to 13 October 2006, which was attended by 10 officials; (ii) A Refresher Training Course for officials of the Watch and Ward Service of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats was organized from 18 to 22 September 2006, which was attended by 40 participants; and (iii) A Training Course for officials of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats providing Research, Reference and Information Service, was organized from 13 to 17 November 2006, which was attended by 28 participants.

Training Programmes/Conferences Abroad: (i) Two officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended a Training Programme at the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London, from 13 to 24 November 2006; and (ii) Two officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) Conference in New Zealand from 27 November to 1 December 2006.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Instances when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 28 November 2006, during further discussion on Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006, the Chair permitted one member to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 30 November 2006, during discussion under rule 193 on rise in the prices of essential commodities, the Chair permitted one member to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 4 December 2006, during discussion under rule 193 regarding Report on the state of Panchayats—A Mid-term Review and Appraisal—2006, the Chair permitted two members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 5 December 2006, during discussion on Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) and Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways), the Chair permitted twenty-five members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Thereafter, Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad, while replying to the debate also laid some portion of his speech on Table of the House.

On 7 December 2006, during discussion under rule 193 on problems being faced by the unorganized labour in the country, the Chair permitted one member to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 8 December 2006, the Home Minister, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, while replying to the Calling Attention, also laid some portion of his statement on the Table of the House.

On 12 December 2006, during discussion on the Demand for Excess Grants (General) 2004-2005 and Supplementary Demand for Grants (General) 2006-2007, the Chair permitted three members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 13 December 2006, during further discussion regarding problems being faced by the unorganized labour in the country, the Chair permitted two members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On the same day, during further discussion regarding Report on the state of Panchayats—A Mid-term Review and Appraisal—2006, the

Chair permitted one member to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 14 December 2006, during discussion on the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006, the Chair permitted one member to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 15 December 2006, during discussion on the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006, the Chair permitted seven members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 19 December 2006, during discussion on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, the Chair permitted three members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed members, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attentions: On 28 November 2006, Speaker allowed three members Sarvashri Shailendra Kumar, Ram Kripal Yadav and Dr. K.S. Manoj whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention regarding large number of cases pending in various courts of the country for a long time. The Speaker also asked a clarificatory question on the same subject.

On the same day, Speaker allowed two members, Sarvashri Kiren Rijiju and Devendra Prasad Yadav, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention regarding handing over of some hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh to private parties for which investment has been already been made by the National Hydel Power Corporation.

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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat do not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Ninth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Ninth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 22 November 2006. Both the Houses of Parliament were adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2006. The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam prorogued the two Houses on 21 December 2006.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 24 October 2006, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, inducted Shri A.K. Antony as the Cabinet Minister (Defence), and two Ministers of State, namely Sarvashri Jaiprakash Narayan Yadav (Water Resources) and M.H Ambreesh (Information and Broadcasting) into his Council of Ministers.

The Minister without Portfolio Shri Oscar Fernandes was sworn in as the Minister of State, Labour and Employment (Independent Charge). The Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, has been given addiditional charge of the Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region. The Minister of State, Shri Chandrasekhar Sahu was relieved of Labour & Employment portfolio and has been given charge of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Lok Sabha By-election Results: On 2 November 2006, Shri Rampal Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh) Constituency, by-election

for which was held on 30 October 2006. Shri Rampal Singh took oath/ affirmation on 22 November 2006.

By-elections to three Lok Sabha constituencies were held on 6 November 2006 and the results were declared on 9 November 2006. While Shri Ramswaroop Prasad of the Janata Dal (United) and Syed Shahnawaz Hussain of the BJP were declared elected from Nalanda and Bhagalpur (Bihar) Constituencies, respectively, Shri Babu Lal Marandi, an Independent, was declared elected from Koderma (Jharkhand) Constituency. Shri Ramswaroop Prasad and Syed Shahnawaz Hussain took oath/affirmation on 22 November 2006, while Shri Babu Lal Marandi took oath/affirmation on 23 November 2006.

On 7 December 2006, Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha of the Indian National Congress (INC) and Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) were declared elected from Bobbili (Andhra Pradesh) and Karimnagar (Andhra Pradesh) Constituencies, respectively, by-elections for which were held on 4 December 2006. Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao took oath/affirmation on 11 December 2006 while Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha took oath/affirmation on 14 December 2006.

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 10 October 2006, Shri Lalit Suri, an Independent member of the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh passed away.

On 15 December 2006, Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur, an Indian National Congress (INC) member of the Rajya Sabha from Punjab passed away.

Resignation of Union Minister: On 28 November 2006, the Union Coal Minister Shri Shibu Soren resigned from the Council of Ministers.

Election to Rajya Sabha: On 4 December 2006, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari of the Samajwadi Party was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. Shri Tiwari's term commenced on 6 December 2006 and he took oath on 7 December 2006.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Member: On 4 December 2006, Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Lok Sabha resigned from Amritsar Lok Sabha Constituency (Punjab).

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri Laeta Umbrey (Independent) was declared elected from Roing Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

ASSAM

By-Election Result: On 9 November 2006, Shri Siraj Uddin Ajmal of the Assam United Democratic Front (AUDF) was declared elected from Jamunamukh Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 6 November 2006.

BIHAR

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri Vishwanath Singh of the JD (U) was declared elected from Manihari Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

CHHATTISGARH

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri Chamaru Singh Bhaina of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was declared elected from Kota Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

JHARKHAND

Expansion of Cabinet: On 8 October 2006, Chief Minister Shri Madhu Koda, inducted three Ministers into his Council of Ministers. They are: Sarvashri Stephen Marandi, Chandra Prakash Chaudhary and Dulal Bhuiyan.

Minister Inducted: On 7 November 2006, Chief Minister, Shri Madhu Koda inducted Shri Lal Hemendra Prathap Dehati as the Cabinet Minister into his Council of Ministers.

The names of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Shri Madhu Koda; Chief Minister, *Personnel, Home. Cabinet Election, Vigilance, Planning, Energy, Law, Road Construction, Mines, Disaster Management, PRD, Labour, Institutional Finance, Registration, Civil Aviation and all portfolios not given to any one*; Sarvashri Stephen Marandi, Deputy Chief Minister with *Finance, Commercial Taxes & National Saving, Parliamentary Affairs;* Sudhir Mahto, Deputy Chief Minister with *Forest & Environment and Industry;* Kamlesh Singh, Water resources, *Food & Civil Supplies & Excise;* Enos Ekka, *Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & NREP (Special Division), Building & Transport;* Harinarayan Rai, *Urban Development, REO (NREP 1), PMGSY & Tourism;* Bandhu Tirkey, *Human Resource Development, Art, Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs;* Chandra Prakash Chaudhary, *Drinking Water & Sanitation, Science & Technology and Information Technology;* Dulal Bhuian, *Revenue & Land Reforms and Cooperative;* Nalin Soren,

Agriculture, Cane Development & Animal Husbandry; Lal Hemendra Prathap Dehati, *Health;* and Smt. Joba Majhi, *Welfare (Minority Welfare) & Social Welfare;*

Suspension of BJP MLAs: On 17 October 2006, the BJP suspended three of its party MLAs, namely, Sarvashri Ravindra Kumar Rai, Bishnu Prasad Bhaiya and Smt. Kunti Devi for indulging in "anti-party activities".

KARNATAKA

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri E. Siddaramaiah of the INC was declared elected from Chamundeshwari Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

KERALA

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri George M. Thomas Mekkattukunnel of the CPI(M) was declared elected from Thiruvambadi Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

MADHYA PRADESH

Suspension of BJP MLA: On 28 October 2006, the BJP suspended its party MLA Shri Gaurishankar Shejwar for indulging in "anti-party activities".

By-Election Results: On 2 November 2006, Shri K. C. Ghuwara of the BJP was declared elected from Malehra Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 30 October 2006.

On 7 December 2006, Shri Devender Verma of the BJP was declared elected from Pandhana Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

MAHARASHTRA

By-Election Results: On 7 December 2006, Sarvashri Bharsarale Prakash Gunwant and Wadettiwar Vijay Namdeo, both of the INC were declared elected from Daryapur and Chimur Assembly constituencies, respectively, by-elections for which were held on 4 December 2006.

MEGHALAYA

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri Desang M. Sangma of the NCP was declared elected from Rongeng Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006

MIZORAM

By-Election Results: On 2 November 2006, Sarvashri Alak Bikash Chakma and Lalchhandama Ralte, both of the Mizo National Front were declared from Chawngte and Tlungvel Assembly constituencies respectively, by-elections for which were held on 30 October 2006.

ORISSA

By-Election Result: On 2 November 2006, Shri Prafulla Majhi of the INC was declared elected from Talsara Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 30 October 2006.

RAJASTHAN

Suspension of BJP MLA: On 21 November 2006, the BJP suspended its party MLA Shri Surendra Singh Rathore for indulging in "anti-party activities".

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Shri Punji Lal Parmar of the INC was declared elected from Dungarpur Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006.

TAMIL NADU

By-Election Result: On 17 October 2006, Shri Syed Ghouse Basha, of the DMK was declared elected from Madurai Central Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 11 October 2006.

WEST BENGAL

By-Election Result: On 7 December 2006, Ms. Sayeda Farhat Afroz of the CPI (M) was declared elected from Islampur Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 4 December 2006

EVENTS ABROAD

AUSTRIA

Election Results: The elections to the 183-seat *Nationalrat* (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 1 October 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Social Democratic Party:68; People's Party:66; Greens:21; Freedom Party:21; and Alliance for the Future of Austria:7.

BERMUDA

Prime Minister Sworn in: On 30 October 2006, Mr. Ewart Brown was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Bermuda.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Elections Results: On 1 October 2006, the elections were held to the 42-seat all-Bosnian House of Representatives (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature); 98-seat House of Representatives of the Muslim-Croat Federation; and the 83-seat People's Assembly of the Republika Srpska (the Bosnian Serb entity).

The results to 42-seat all-Bosnian House of Representatives is as follows: *Elected by Federation*: Party of Democratic Action:8; Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina:7; Social Democratic Party:5; Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia-Hezegovina:3; Croat Unity:2; Bosnia-Herzegovina Patriotic Party:1; People's Party Progress Through Work:1; Democratic People's Union:1; *Elected by Republika Srpska:* Alliance of Independent Social Democrats:7; Serb Democratic Party:3; Party of Democratic Progress:1; Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina:1; Party of Democratic Action;1; and Democratic People's Alliance:1.

The results to 98-seat House of Representatives of the Muslim-Croat Federation is as follows: Party of Democratic Action:28; Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina:24; Social Democratic Party:17 Croat Unity:16; Bosnia-Herzegovina Patriotic Party:4; People's Party Progress Through Work:3; Patriotic Bloc:3; Democratic People's Union:2; and Party of Independent Social Democrats:1.

The results to 83-seat People's Assembly of the Republika Srpska (the Bosnian Serb entity) is as follows: Party of Independent Social Democrats:41; Serb Democratic Party:17; Party of Democratic Progress:8; Democratic People's Alliance:4; Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina:4; Socialist Party:3; Party of Democratic Action:3; Serbian Radical Party:2; and Social Democratic Party:1.

BRAZIL

President Elected: Mr. Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva was elected as the President of Brazil, in the elections held for the post on 1 October 2006.

Election Results: The elections to the 513-seat Chamber of Deputies (the Lower Chamber) were held on 1 October 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party: 89; Workers' Party: 83; Brazilian Social Democratic Party: 65; Liberal Front Party: 65; Brazilian Progressive Party: 42; Brazilian Socialist Party: 27; Democratic Labour Party: 24; Liberal Party: 23; Brazilian Labour Party: 22; Socialist People's Party: 21; Green Party: 13; Communist Party of Brazil: 13; Christian Socialist

Party: 9; Christian Labour Party: 4; Socialist and Freedom Party: 3; Party of National Mobilisation: 3; National Order Reconstruction Party: 2; Humanist Party of Solidarity: 2; Labour Party of Brazil: 1; Party of the Nation's Retirees: 1; and Brazilian Republican Party:1.

BULGARIA

President Re-elected: Mr. Georgi Parvanov was re-elected as the President of Bulgaria, in the elections held for the post on 29 October 2006.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Resignation of Prime Minister. On 11 October 2006, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mirek Topolanek resigned from his post.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

President Re-elected: Mr. Joseph Kabila was re-elected as the President of Democratic Republic of Congo in the elections held for the post on 29 October 2006. Mr. Kabila was sworn-in on 6 December 2006.

Election Results: On 3 October 2006, the 500-seat National Assembly (the Lower Chamber of the Bicameral Legislature) confirmed the mandate of 498 of its members elected in the elections held on 29 July 2006. The party position is as follows: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy:111; Congolese Liberation Movement:64; Party of Unified Lumumbists:34; Social Movement for Renewal:27; Force Revival:26; Congolese Rally for Democracy-Goma:15; Coalition of Congolese Democrats:10; Convention of the Christian Democrats:10; Union for Democratic Mobutuists:9; Camp of the Fatherland:8; Federalist Christian Democracy-Convention of Federalists for Christian Democracy:8; Christian Democratic Party:8; Union of the Federalist Nationalists of Congo:7; Congolese Alliance of Christian Democrats:4; Alliance of Congolese Democrats:4; Convention of Congolese Unite:4; Mai-Mai Resistant Patriots:4; Gathering of the Democratic and Nationalist Congolese:4; Union of the People for the Republic and Integral Development:4; Alliance of the Builders of Congo:3; Democratic Convention for Development:3; Convention for the Republic and Democracy:3; National Alliance Party for Unity:3; Party of the Nationalists for Integral Development:3; Union of Congolese Patriots:3; National Union of Democratic Federalists:3; Alliance of the Believing Congolese Nationalists:2; Alliance for Congolese Renewal: 2; Forces of New Ideas for Unification and Solidarity:2; Movement for Democracy and Development:2; Congolese Party for Good Governmence:2; Party of the People's Revolution:2;

Democratic Social Christian Party:2; Gathering of the Social and Federalist Forces:2; Renaissance Election Platform:2; Solidarity for National Development:2; Union for Republican Majority:2; National Union of Christian Democrats:2; Action for Reconstruction and National Edification:1; Alliance of Congolese Nationalists/Platform:1; Conscience and Will of the People:1; Convention of the Christian Democrats:1; National Convention of Political Action:1; National Convention for the Republic and Progress:1; Christian Democrats:1; Front for Congolese Democrats:1; Front for Social Integration:1; Social Front for Independent Republicans:1; Front of Social Democrats for Development:1; Republican Generation:1; Movement of Action for the Resurrection of Congo-Party of Work and Fratenity:1; Movement of Self-Defence for the Integrity and Maintenance of the Independent Authority:1; Movement of the Congolese People for the Republic:1; Popular Movement for the Revolution:1; Solidarity Movement for Democracy and Development:1; Mai-Mai Movement:1; Political Organisation of Kasavubistes and Allies:1; Congolese Party for the Wellbeing of the People:1; Party of National Unity:1; National Party of the People:1; Gathering of Christians for Congo:1; Gathering for Social and Economic Development:1; Congolese Union for Change:1; Union of Christian Liberal Democrats:1; Union of Congolese Nationalist Patriots:1; Union for the Defence of the Republic:1; Independents:63 and not allocated: 2. (One deputy was the subject of a criminal probe and another had died).

ECUADOR

President Elected: Mr. Alvaro Fernando Noboa Ponton was elected as the President of Ecuador, in the elections held for the post on 15 October 2006.

Election Results: The elections to the 100-seat National Congress (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 15 October 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Institutional Renewal Party of National Action: 27; January 21 Patriotic Society Party: 21; Ethical and Democratic Network/Democratic Left Party: 13; Social Christian Party: 12; Pluri-National Pachakutik United Movement: 7; Ecuadorian Roldosist Party: 6; Democratic Christian Union: 3; Democratic People's Movement: 2; and Others: 9.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

President Elected: Mr. Gaston Tong Sang was elected as the President of French Polynesia, in the elections held for the post on 26 December 2006.

GABON

Election Results: The elections to the 120-seat National Assembly (the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 17 December 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Gabonese Democratic Party: 82; Rally for Gabon: 8; Gabonese People's Union: 8; Gabonese Union for Democracy and Development: 4; Democratic and Republic Alliance: 3; Circle of Liberal Reformers: 2; Social Democratic Party: 2; Gabonese Progress Party-Ndaot Faction: 2; African Development Movement: 1; Rally of Republican Democrats: 1; African Forum for Reconstruction: 1; Congress for Democracy and Justice:1; National Rally of Woodcutters-Kombila:1; and Independents:4.

IRAQ

Former President Executed: On 30 December 2006, former Iraqi President Mr. Saddam Hussain was hanged to death.

LATVIA

Election Results: The elections to the 100-seat *Saeima* (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 7 October 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: People's Party:23; Union of Greens and Farmers:18; New Era:18; Harmony Centre:17; Latvia First Party:10; Fatherland and Freedom Union:8 and For Human Rights in a United Lativia:6.

Prime Minister Sworn in: On 7 November 2006, Mr. Aigars Kalvitis was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Latvia.

MADAGASCAR

President Elected: Mr. Marc Ravalomanana was elected as the President of Madagascar, in the elections held for the post on 3 December 2006.

MAURITANIA

Election Results: The elections to the 95-seat National Assembly (the Upper House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 3 December 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Rally of Democratic Forces: 15; Union of the Forces for Progress: 8; Republican Democratic and Social Party: 7; Popular Progressive Alliance:5; Rally for Democracy and Unity: 3; Union for Democracy and Progress: 3 Democratic Renewal: 2; Rally of Democratic Forces-Union of the Forces for Progress: 2; Mauritanian Party for Union and Change: 2; Mauritanian

Party for Union and Change-Popular Progressive Alliance: 2; Popular Front:1; Social Democratic Unionist Party: 1; Alternative: 1; National Rally for Democracy, Liberty and Equality: 1; Union of the Democratic Centre: 1; and Independents: 41.

MEXICO

President Sworn in: On 1 December 2006, Mr. Felipe Calderon was sworn in as the President of Mexico.

MONTENEGRO

New Prime Minister: On 3 October 2006, the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr. Milo Djukanovic resigned from his post. On 4 October 2006, Mr. Zeljko Sturanovic was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

NETHERLANDS

Election Results: The elections to the 150-seat *Tweede Kamer* (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 22 November 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Christian Democratic Appeal: 41; Labour Party: 33; Socialist Party: 25; People's Party for Freedom and Democracy: 22; Wilders Group/Party for Freedom: 9; Green Left: 7; Christian Union: 6; Democrats 66: 3; Party for the Animals: 2; and Political Reformed Party: 2.

NICARAGUA

President Elected: Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra was elected as the President of Nicaragua, in the elections held for the post on 5 November 2006.

Election Results: The elections to the 92-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 5 November 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Sandinista National Liberation Front:38; Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance:24; Liberal Constitutionalist Party:25; and Sandinista Renewal Movement:5.

ST LUCIA

Election Results: The elections to the 17-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 11 December 2006. The United Workers' Party secured 11 seats while St Lucia Labour Party won the remaining 6 seats.

SWEDEN

Prime Minister Sworn in: On 5 October 2006, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Sweden.

TAJIKISTAN

President Elected: Mr. Imamoli Rakhmanov was elected as the President of Tajikistan, for a third consecutive term in the elections held for the post on 6 November 2006.

THAILAND

Prime Minister Sworn in: On 1 October 2006, Gen. (Retd.) Surayud Chulanont was sworn in as the interim Prime Minister of Thailand.

TURKMENISTAN

Death of President: On 21 December 2006, the President, Mr. Saparmurad Niyazov died following cardiac arrest. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov was appointed as the acting President.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Election of Speaker: On 16 November 2006, Ms. Nancy Pelosi was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

VENEZUELA

President Re-elected: Mr. Hugo Chavez Frias was re-elected as the President of Venezuela, in the elections held for the post on 3 December 2006.

ZAMBIA

President Sworn in: On 3 October 2006, Mr. Levy Mwanawasa was sworn in as the President of Zambia for a second term.

9

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 had made certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. Prior to this amendment, item 20 of the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Bihar stood as "Lohara or Lohra". Subsequently, on account of the passing of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976, item 20 underwent change, wherein "Lohara, Lohra" appeared at item 22. Inadvertently, the word "Lohara" appearing in the English version was misspelt as लोहार in the Hindi version of the said Amendment Act. Taking advantage of the error, the "Lohara" which is a distinct group in Bihar in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category had been making concerted attempts to be treated as the Scheduled Tribes and enjoy consequential constitutional benefits. It had, therefore, become necessary to amend the Hindi version of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 so as to rectify the error occurred in item 22 substituting the word लोहारा in place of the existing word लोहार. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2006 was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 27 November and 4 December 2006, respectively. The President assented it on 12 December 2006.

On 5 October 2005, the Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal adopted a Resolution citing mythological and historical reasons, that the name of the State of 'Uttaranchal' should be changed to 'Uttarakhand' and requested the Union Government to take necessary steps.

The Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006 provided for the alteration of the name of the State of 'Uttaranchal' to 'Uttarakhand'. As required by the proviso to article 3 of the Constitution, the President referred the said Bill to the Legislature of the State of Uttaranchal for expressing its views to which the Uttaranchal Legislature Government had agreed upon. Therefore, the said Bill was introduced for the purpose of altering the name of the State of Uttaranchal to the State of Uttarakhand by amending, *inter alia*, the provisions of the Constitution and also by providing for consequential provisions. The Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 5 and 7 December 2006, respectively. The President assented it on 21 December 2006.

In pursuance of article 323-A of the Constitution the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 was enacted. The term of office of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Tribunal was five years with eligibility for re-appointment for another term of five years. The upper age limit for holding the office of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman was 65 years and that of the Member was 62 years. The age of retirement from services of the Government had been

increased from 58 to 60 years in the year 1998. As a result, a person appointed as a Member, who would normally have a tenure of four years, with the changes in retirement age, it had effectively come down to two years. Hence, it was proposed to revise the retirement age of the Members from 62 to 65 years and enhance their status. The retirement age of the Chairman was also proposed to be raised from 65 to 68 years so that the Chairman could serve for a full term of five years.

With the enhancement of status of the Member, it would no longer be necessary to appoint Vice-Chairman, as all the Members other than the Chairman would enjoy equal status. Consequently, the office of the Vice-Chairman was proposed to be abolished except as an executive arrangement to perform certain administrative functions. As the purpose of the changes intended to attract the experienced and deserving persons in future, the amendments were proposed to be given prospective effect applicable to those appointed thereafter. Some consequential amendments were also proposed. The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 14 and 18 December 2006, respectively. The President assented it on 29 December 2006.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER AMENDMENT ACT, 2006

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 *to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Bihar.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short Title.* This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Act, 2006.

2. *Amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976.* In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976, in the Schedule, in Part III relating to Bihar, for item 22 (since renumbered as item 21), as appearing in the Hindi version of the said Act, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"21. Lohara, Lohra".

THE UTTARANCHAL (ALTERATION OF NAME) ACT, 2006

An Act to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.* (*1*) This Act may be called the Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Act, 2006.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Definitions.* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(*a*) "appointed day" means the date appointed under sub-section (*2*) of section 1 for the coming into force of this Act;

(*b*) "appropriate Government" means, as respects a law relating to a matter enumerated in List I in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the Central Government, and as respects any other law, the State Government;

(*c*) "law" includes any enactment, Ordinance, regulation, order, bye-law, rule, scheme, notification or other instrument having the force of law in the whole or any part of the State of Uttaranchal.

3. *Alteration of name of the State of Uttaranchal.* As from the appointed day, the State of Uttaranchal shall be known as the State of Uttarakhand.

4. *Amendment of First Schedule to the Constitution.* In the First Schedule to the Constitution, under the heading "I. THE STATES", in entry 27, under the column *"Name"*, for the word "Uttaranchal", the word "Uttarakhand" shall be substituted.

5. *Amendment of Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.* In the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution, under the heading "TABLE", in entry 18, in the second column, for the word "Uttaranchal", the word "Uttarakhand" shall be substituted.

6. *Power to adapt laws.* (*1*) For the purpose of giving effect to the alteration of the name of the State of Uttaranchal by section 3, the appropriate Government may, before the expiration of one year from the appointed day, by order, make such adaptations and modifications of any law made before the appointed day, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as may be necessary or expedient, and thereupon every such law shall have effect subject to the adaptations and modifications so made.

(*2*) Nothing in sub-section (*1*) shall be deemed to prevent a competent Legislature or other competent authority from repealing or amending any law adapted or modified by the appropriate Government under the said sub-section.

7. *Power to construe laws.* Notwithstanding that no provision or insufficient provision has been made under section 6 for the adaptation of a law made before the appointed day, any court, tribunal or authority, required or empowered to enforce such law, may construe the law in such manner, without affecting the substance, as may be necessary or proper in regard to the matter before the court, tribunal or authority.

8. *Legal proceedings.* Where immediately before the appointed day any legal proceedings are pending to which the State of Uttaranchal is a party, the State of Uttarakhand shall be deemed to be substituted for the State of Uttaranchal in those proceedings.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2006

An Act further to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.* (*1*) This Act may be called the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. *Amendment of section 3.* In section 3 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

(*1*) in clause (*i*), for the words "the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman", the words "the Chairman" shall be substituted.

(*ii*) in clause *(ia),* the words "and a Vice-Chairman" shall be omitted.

(*iii*) for clause *(u),* the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(u) "Vice-Chairman" means a Member who has been authorised by the appropriate Government to perform administrative functions at each of the places where Benches of the Tribunal have been set up.'.

3. *Amendment of section 4.* In section 4 of the principal Act, in sub-section (4), for the words "Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members", the words "Chairman and other Members" shall be substituted.

4. *Amendment of section 5.* In section 5 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), for the words "a Chairman and such number of Vice-Chairman and Judicial and Administrative Members", the words "a Chairman and such number of Judicial and Administrative Members" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*4*),—

(*i*) in clause *(b),* for the words "the Vice-Chairman or other Members", the words "a Member" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in clause (*c*),—

(*i*) For the words "the Vice-Chairman or the Judicial Member", the words "the Judicial Member" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) for the words "the Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, the Judicial Member or the Administrative Member", the words "the Judicial Member or the Administrative Member, as the case may be" shall be substituted.

5. *Substitution of new section for section 6.* For section 6 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"6. Qualifications for appointment as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and other members. (*1*) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairman unless he is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court:

Provided that a person appointed as Vice-Chairman before the commencement of this Act shall be qualified for appointment as Chairman if such person has held the office of the Vice-Chairman at least for a period of two years.

(*2*) A person shall not be qualified for appointment,—

(*a*) as an Administrative Member, unless he has held for at least two years the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any other post under the Central or State Government and carrying the scale of pay which is not less than that of a Secretary to the Government of India for at least two years or held a post of Additional Secretary to the Government of India for at least five years or any other post under the Central or State Government carrying the scale of pay which is not less than that of Additional Secretary to the Government of India at least for a period of five years:

Provided that the officers belonging to All-India services who were or are on Central deputation to a lower post shall be deemed to have held the post of Secretary or Additional Secretary, as the case may be, from the date such officers

were granted proforma promotion or actual promotion whichever is earlier to the level of Secretary or Additional Secretary, as the case may be, and the period spent on Central deputation after such date shall count for qualifying service for the purposes of this clause;

(*b*) as a Judicial Member, unless he is or qualified to be a Judge of a High Court or he has for at least two years held the post of a Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Legal Affairs or the Legislative Department including Member-Secretary, Law Commission of India or held a post of Additional Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department at least for a period of five years.

(*3*) The Chairman and every other Member of the Central Administrative Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India by the President.

(*4*) Subject to the provision of sub-section (*3*), the Chairman and every other Member of an Administrative Tribunal for a State shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Governor of the concerned State.

(*5*) The Chairman and every other Member of a Joint Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (*3*) and subject to the terms of the agreement between the participating State Governments published under sub-section (*3*) of section 4 of the principal Act, be appointed by the President after consultation with the Governors of the concerned States.

Explanation.—In computing for the purpose of this section, the period during which a person has held any post under the Central or State Government, there shall be included the period during which he has held any other post under the Central or State Government (including an office under this Act) carrying the same scale of pay as that of first mentioned post on a higher scale of pay.".

6. *Amendment of section 7.* In section 7 of the principal Act, for the words "Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, such one of the Vice-Chairman", the words "such one of the Members" shall be substituted.

7. *Substitution of new section for section 8.* For section 8 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"8. *Term of office.* (*1*) The Chairman shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that no Chairman shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-eight years.

(*2*) A Member shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office extendable by one more term of five years:

Provided that no Member shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

(*3*) The conditions of service of Chairman and Members shall be the same as applicable to Judges of the High Court.".

8. *Amendment of section 9.* In section 9 of the principal Act, the word "Vice-Chairman" wherever it occurs shall be omitted.

9. *Amendment of section 10.* In section 10 of the principal Act,—

(*i*) the word "Vice-Chairman" wherever it occurs shall be omitted;

(*ii*) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided further that where a serving Government officer is appointed as a Member, he shall be deemed to have retired from the service to which he belonged on the date on which he assumed the charge of the Member but his subsequent service as Member shall, at his option, be reckoned as a post-retirement re-employment counting for pension and other retirement benefits in the service to which he belonged.".

10. *Insertion of new section 10A.* After section 10 of the principal Act, that following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"10A. *Saving terms and conditions of service of Vice-Chairman.* The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member of a Tribunal appointed before the commencement of the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the Act, and the rules made thereunder as if the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 had not come into force:

Provided that, however, such Chairman and the Members appointed before the coming into force of Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006, may on completion of their term or attainment of the age of sixty-five or sixty-two years, as the case may be, whichever is earlier may, if eligible in terms of section 8 as amended by the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 be considered for a fresh appointment in accordance with the selection procedure laid down for such appointments subject to the condition that the total term in office of the Chairman shall not exceed five years and that of the Members, ten years.".

11. *Amendment of section 11.* In section 11 of the principal Act,–

(*i*) In clause (*b*), the words "Vice-Chairman or" shall be omitted;

(*ii*) clause (*c*) and clause (*d*) shall be omitted; and

(*iii*) in clause (*e*), the words "or Vice-Chairman" at both the places where they occur shall be omitted:

(*iv*) in clause (*f*), the words "Vice-Chairman" at both the places where they occur shall be omitted.

12. *Substitution of new section for section 12.* For section 12 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"12. *Financial and administrative powers of the Chairman.* (*1*) The Chairman shall exercise such financial and administrative powers over the Benches as may be vested in him under the rules made by the appropriate Government.

(*2*) The appropriate Government may designate one or more Members to be the Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, Vice-Chairmen thereof and the Members so designated shall exercise such of the powers and perform such of the functions of the Chairman as may be delegated to him by the Chairman by a general or special order in writing.".

13. *Amendment of section 31.* In section 31 of the principal Act, for the words "Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members", the words "Chairman and other Members" shall be substituted.

14. *Amendment of section 32.* In section 32 of the principal Act, the word "Vice-Chairman" wherever it occurs shall be omitted.

15. *Amendment of section 35.* In section 35 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),—

(*i*) In cause (*b*), for the words "Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member", the words "Chairman or other Member" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in clause (*c*), for the words "Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members", the words "Chairman and other Members" shall be substituted.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

NINTH SESSION

The Ninth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 22 November 2006 and was adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2006. The House was prorogued on 21 December 2006. In all, there were 20 sittings during the period.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/ DISCUSSIONS

Discussion under Rule 193 regarding situation arising out of the ongoing sealing drive in Delhi: Initiating discussion in this regard in the House on 27 November 2006, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' of the Janata Dal (United) said that the sealing drive in Delhi had put a question mark on the future of about seven lakh shopkeepers and thirty lakh other people working in those shops. The shopkeepers had been running their shops for about 35 to 40 years under licences issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The MCD was collecting municipal, electricity and other taxes at commercial rates from them. The Government had admitted this but they were failing to defend this today. After 1962, the second Master Plan of Delhi was to come in 1981 but this came only after 9 years, *i.e.* in 1990. Thereafter, the third Master Plan should have come in 2001, but objections were now being raised in this regard after a gap of 5 years. The need of the hour, therefore, was to prepare the draft Master Plan of 2001 and put it before the Supreme Court and to regularise all the sites. About 1,400 unauthorized colonies, as per the Government records, should also be regularized and stringent laws enacted to ensure that no illegal commercial activities take place in future, he added.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy of the

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sajjan Kumar, Hannan Mollah, Rewati Raman Singh, Jagdish Tytler, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, Vijayendra Pal Singh, Sandeep Dikshit, Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Smt. Krishna Tirath

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) criticized the hasty manner in which the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 was passed, which placed one year moratorium on the demolition of unauthorized construction and sealing of commercial establishments in the residential areas in the Capital. He said that the tendency of the Executive to circumvent a court order through the introduction of legislation was an unhealthy feature for democracy.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that if the sealing drive continued, nearly 30 lakh people would become unemployed. He said that this was a serious issue and urged the Minister to come up with a solution in this regard.

The Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kapil Sibal said that the real problem was that the law was far behind the dynamics of economic activity. The law was enacted in the shape of Master Plan in 1962 but the pace of the economic activity was faster than the law. What was basically required was a law that constantly changed and a permanent monitoring system which could look at the needs of the community as they arise from time to time. Using farsightedness, the Government should now formulate a Master Plan which would fulfill the requirements of Delhi for the next 20 years. The Master Plan should not be notified without Zonal Plan and Sub-Zonal Plan. He said that the issue was not Court versus Executive or Court versus Legislature but was the planning process. Scrapping of MCD Act would not provide any relief to the public, he added.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Urban Development, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy said that the problems in Delhi had grown over the decades but there has been marginal improvement on the original Master Plan of 1962. It did not try to accommodate the ground reality, as it should have and in the meantime, Delhi has continued to attract huge rural migration.

The Minister said that Indian economy was growing fast. This also had put strain on the infrastructure of Delhi and the gap between the availability of commercial space and the demand was growing. The Supreme Court chose to give an order on 16 February 2006 stating that all the illegal shops on roads of more than 80 feet be sealed. Later on, traders said that they would all give undertakings, through the affidavits, that they would on their own cease misuse of the land. Later, the spirit of undertaking was extended to 31 October. The Supreme Court also appointed a monitoring committee. As part of this process, 5,000 shops were sealed and 40,800 traders filed affidavits. Meanwhile, Parliament

enacted the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act. It intended to serve three purposes: to freeze the situation as existed on 31 December 2005; to take all possible measures to finalize or revise norms and guidelines in respect of unauthorized development; and to suspend any punitive action. After passing this extraordinary law, the Government immediately issued a public notice on 21 July proposing changes in the Master Plan Delhi 2001. The changes were based on the Report presented by the Tajender Khanna Committee. In pursuance of the notice issued and, after going through all the statutory processes, the Government issued Notifications on 7, 15 and 22 September. On account of these notifications, at least 90 per cent of the affected people in Delhi could get relief.

Regarding regularization of 1,400 odd colonies, the Minister said that the process of regularization of these colonies was at an advance stage and in a few weeks time, the Union Cabinet would regularise the unauthorized colonies. He also stated that the Government was trying to accelerate the process of finalization of the Master Plan, Delhi 2021 and, in the meantime, the passing of the 23rd judgment by the Supreme Court had provided the Government great relief for the time being. Therefore, while the mental agony which the people of Delhi went through, should not be under-estimated at the same time, the actual problem should not be magnified, he concluded.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs regarding the visit of the President of China to India: Making a statement in this regard in the House on 28 November 2007, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that President Hu Jintao of China paid a State visit to India from 20 to 23 November 2006. It was the first visit by a Chinese President to India since President Jiang Zemin's visit to India in November-December, 1996.

The Minister said that President Hu had a productive and comprehensive exchange of views with India's leaders on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest. During the visit a Joint Declaration which embodied a "ten-pronged strategy" was issued on behalf of the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese President. Both the Leaders noted that India-China relations had transcended their bilateral dimension and acquired a global and strategic significance. President Hu characterized the present phase in the relationship as marking a "new historic beginning" and conveyed that his visit would send out a strong signal to the international community that India and China were willing to work hand in hand for a long-term friendship and common development. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also high-

lighted that he would like India and China to work together as good neighbours and partners and develop together in a mutually supportive manner while remaining sensitive to each other's concerns and aspirations. Both the leaders agreed on the need for sustained efforts to exploit the full potential of strategic partnership and to resolve 'outstanding issues in a focused, sincere and problem-solving manner'.

The Minister stated that a number of initiatives were announced during the visit to consolidate institutional linkages between the two Governments, encourage comprehensive economic engagement, promote trans-border connectivity and cooperation and enhance science and technology, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides agreed to hold regular summit level meetings and decided to open new Consulates in Kolkata and Guangzhou. The two sides also decided to set up an expert-level mechanism to discuss the mode of cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers. Economic cooperation emerged as a major thrust area of the visit and was reflected in the signing of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, fixing of trade target of US$ 40 billion by 2010 and mandating the Joint Task Force already established by the two countries to complete its study on the feasibility and benefits of India-China Regional Trading Arrangement by October 2007. Important understandings were reached for continued expansion of border trade and greater facilitation of Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra. Both sides underlined the need to broad-base the relationship through enhanced people-to-people contacts and cultural ties, taking initiatives such as launching of an "India-China Year of Friendship through Tourism" in 2007 and a five-year programme for exchange of youth delegations.

The Minister informed that the Prime Minister and the Chinese President exchanged views on the boundary question and expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the Special Representatives. Both sides also expressed their commitment that pending the final settlement of the boundary question; they would maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and expedite the work of clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control. Referring to the concerns expressed by the members about remarks made by the Chinese envoy on the eve of the visit about the status of Arunachal Pradesh, the Minister said that Arunachal Pradesh was an integral part of India and said that he had unambiguously rejected the Chinese contention. He also stated that the matter was taken up immediately with the Chinese Government through the Indian Ambassador in Beijing and India's disappointment and concern over the Chinese statement was clearly conveyed.

The Minister said that the Prime Minister also had a useful exchange of views with President Hu on regional and multilateral issues. The two leaders noted that together India and China could make effective contributions in dealing with global issues of sustainable and equitable development, energy security, peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world, environment protection and fight against terrorism and cross-border crimes. On the issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council, he said that President Hu Jintao reiterated the assurance given by the Chinese Premier to the Prime Minister in April last year that China understood and supported India's aspirations to play a bigger role in the United Nations, including in the Security Council, and that China would be happy to see India succeed in its endeavour to become a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.

On the whole, the Minister said that both sides were satisfied with the outcome of the Chinese President's visit to India. He said that India's policy towards China had been characterized by continuity and consensus. The Government was encouraged by the positive trends in India-China relations and remained hopeful that its continued engagement with China at the highest level would give further impetus to the bilateral relations and speed up the process of resolution of outstanding differences. In this endeavour, he sought the full support and endorsement of the Parliament.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs regarding Indo-US Civil Nuclear Co-operation: Making a statement in this regard in the House on 12 December 2007, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee informed the House about the recent developments pertaining to the implementation of the understanding between India and the United States on the resumption of civilian nuclear energy co-operation. He informed that a reconciled Bill for this purpose was passed by the US House of Representatives and the Senate on 8/9 December 2006.

The Minister stated that the nuclear understanding with the United States of America was significant from the larger perspective of India's energy security. Energy had become a critical constraint to expanding India's economic growth and development. Presently, nuclear energy provided less than three per cent of India's energy mix. Current estimates envisaged nuclear power generation of 30,000 MW by 2022 and 63,000 MW by 2032. The absence of international co-operation seriously constrained India to reach these nuclear energy targets and also impeded her access to nuclear energy.

The Minister stated that the US Administration was committed, by

the 18 July Joint Statement, to adjust its laws that otherwise prohibited civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. He said that the legislation that had been passed was an enabling measure that would now allow US negotiators to discuss and conclude with India a bilateral cooperation agreement. Such an agreement was a pre-requisite for the nuclear cooperation and trade with the United States. In parallel, India was engaging the International Atomic Energy Agency with the intention of negotiating and concluding an India-specific Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol. At a broader level, the Government had already been discussing with the Member States of the Nuclear-energy Suppliers' Group (NSG), the need for an adjustment of their guidelines to permit transfers to India. It had briefed them collectively on various issues of mutual interest, and look forward to their taking a decision on the adjustment of NSG guidelines at an appropriate time. The Minister said that while every stage of this process was important, the test of the process was for India to secure full civil nuclear cooperation with the international community while protecting its strategic programme and maintaining the integrity of its three-stage nuclear programme and indigenous Research and Development.

The Minister informed the House that the US Administration had categorically assured that this legislation would enable the United States to fulfill all the commitments it made to India in the 18 July and 2 March Joint Statements and that this legislation explicitly authorized civil nuclear cooperation with India in a manner fully consistent with those two Statements. He said that the Government fully expected the 18 July Statement and the 2 March Separation Plan to be reflected in the text of the 123 Agreement.

Regarding the principles and concerns that guide India's approach to the nuclear understanding, the Minister said that the Prime Minister had set forth the Government's position when he spoke in the Parliament on 17 August 2006. These principles and concerns continued to remain the basis for India's engagement with the United States and the international community on the tasks ahead. The Government had taken note of certain extraneous and prescriptive provisions in the legislation. It always maintained that the conduct of foreign policy determined solely by her national interests was India's sovereign right. India was also clear that its strategic programme remained outside the purview of these discussions. It would not allow external scrutiny of or interference with the strategic programme. Eventually, the Government's objective was that technology denial regimes that had targeted India for so many decades must be dismantled, so that the national development was

unimpeded. India was committed to creating a climate where her scientists and technologists could participate in, and contribute to international initiatives in various fields. The Government had taken a big step towards that goal, and expressed the hope that the House would continue to support the Government in that endeavour.

Discussion under rule 193 on the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs on 12 December 2006 regarding the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation: A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 18 December 2006. Initiating the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani (Bharatiya Janata Party) said that this was the second time that Parliament was discussing the issue in a major way. He said that the Prime Minister had, in his Washington Press Conference on 20 July 2005, said that India could move forward only on the basis of a broad national consensus. But the question arose whether there was a broad national consensus that this Deal could go forward. At that point of time, it was only a Joint Statement and an agreement between the Prime Minister and the U.S. President. Later, there was this US Legislation called the Hyde Act. If there was a broad national consensus, he opined that there would be no hesitation for the Government to seek the approval of the whole House. But he observed that opinions expressed by various parties, MPs, and nuclear scientists, today, showed that there was no consensus in the Parliament on this particular Deal. There was no consensus even in the UPA Government.

Shri Advani said that when seen closely, the Hyde Act dealt more with India's nuclear weapon credibility and only incidentally with the question of nuclear fuel to be provided to India's civil reactors, and that too under conditionalities which were humiliating. The Act also sought to impose both qualitative and quantitative ceilings on India's nuclear deterrent capability and laid great stress on getting India to cease all fissile material production. The other disturbing aspect of the Hyde Act was that it sought India to have a foreign policy that was congruent to that of the United States. Section 103 stated that one of the US policy objectives to be realized through the nuclear deals was to secure India's full participation in the United States' efforts to contain Iran acquiring weapons of mass destruction. By this Act, he felt that Washington would be virtually dictating what India's foreign policy should be. He, therefore, said that there was no alternative but to reject the idea of entering into a nuclear deal with the United States. He said that the Indo-US Nuclear Deal in its present shape was not the best way of ensuring India's energy security.

Intervening in the discussion, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan

Singh said that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to paint a stale picture, which had no relation with the facts of the matter. He said that the United States Administration had assured that they would be able to fully comply with their commitments. But whether this materializes or not would depend upon the content of the 123 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement that the Government would negotiate with the US Government. Thus, it was premature to pass the type of verdict that the Leader of the Opposition had sought to do. He said that the primary concern of the Government had been lifting of the international restriction on trade with India on nuclear materials, equipment and technologies.

The Prime Minister said that an important stage had been reached in the process of nuclear cooperation with the United States with the passage of legislation by the US Congress with substantial bipartisan support. This Act was necessary for the United States to resume civil nuclear cooperation with India and to lift international restrictions currently applicable to India. He said that International negotiations were a complex process whose outcomes were not entirely predictable nor always under one's control. But, he said that any calculation of risks and opportunities would be done in a reasoned and transparent manner consistent with India's vital national interests. This would be the Government's underlying approach when it negotiates the bilateral 123 Agreement. He mentioned that a large measure of support within the country was in favour of breaking India's isolation and joining the international mainstream in a manner that secures for India full civil nuclear cooperation with the international community while protecting its strategic programme and maintaining the integrity of its three-stage programme and indigenous Research and Development. The Government would make every effort, he said, so that the vision of the July Statement becomes a reality. This objective would not be achieved at the cost of India's vital national interests, he reiterated.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI) said that it was economically not viable and politically not prudent to enter into the agreement, unaware of the problems that may befall India in the future. He suggested that the Government should give up this move of having an agreement with America.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that, at present, all should concentrate

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Rupchand Pal, Nikhil Kumar, Ravi Prakash Verma, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Manvendra Singh, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Kharabela Swain

on opening the door to advanced technology and getting the best deal for India.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that the terms of the Bill showed serious doubts on assurances given by the Prime Minister as it tended to lock India's Foreign Policy to US requirements and subject its scientific Research and Development capabilities to intrusive inspections by the IAEA.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) said that the Prime Minister had made a strong case for India in the Parliament. It was a matter of pride for India that America was ready to sign a nuclear agreement with India.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Government had initiated the process for civil nuclear cooperation with the US with the objective that India must have access to the technology which had been denied to her for so long. With regard to the US legislation, the Minister informed that Section 101 was the normal short title of the Bill. Section 102 spoke the sense of the House and Section 103 spoke of the policies of the United States of America. He said that these were recommendatory, and not of the mandatory nature. The purpose of the Bill was to provide waiver to the US Administration to enable them to enter into an agreement with India for the civil nuclear programme. If all the nuclear arrangements of a country were not under total safeguard of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that country was not eligible to be a partner with the USA for any nuclear cooperation programme. Therefore, these waivers were necessary. The debate in the US Congress, US Senate and the reconciliation conference were the various stages of the process. The Minister stated that the Prime Minister had said that 'before we accept the full safeguard, this 123 Agreement is to be finalized.' The NSG (Nuclear Supplier Group) was also to amend their rules. When India was going to enter into an arrangement with IAEA safeguard protocol, that would also have to be India-specific because the three conditionalities were required for entering into Civilian Nuclear Programmes and India fulfilled that requirement. It was true that nuclear energy was going to be a very major component in foreseeable future because that was the cleanest energy, which was available. He said that one-third of Thorium was available in the country. But the big barrier was access to technology, which had to be removed. He further stated that the Government was doing nothing behind the back of the Parliament. He reiterated that nothing would be done which would stand in the way of India's indigenous research and development programme.

Discussion under Rule 193 regarding problems being faced by the unorganized labour in the country: A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 7 and 13 December 2006. Initiating the discussion on 7 December 2006, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said that it was for the first time that a discussion was being held in the House on the unorganized labour sector and their problems. The unorganized labour comprised all workers from daily wage earners to those engaged in other labour intensive activities. He said that even after 58 years of independence, there was no social security network in the country to take care of them. The rickshaw pullers, whose population was about one crore in the whole country, came under this category. In the whole country, the rickshaw pullers contributed Rs.15,000/- crore to the Indian economy. The Government of India had made a provision for Rs.1,75,000 crore for the amelioration of the condition of unorganized and agricultural labour under the *Bharat Nirman.* However, there was no job security for them. He requested that the poverty ridden class and the unorganized labourers should be given complete freedom to earn their livelihood. The local authorities should not interfere in their business and a central legislation should be brought for this purpose, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri C. Kuppusami (DMK) urged the Labour Minister to take urgent measures to bring legislation before the Parliament for implementing welfare measures for the benefit of the workers engaged in the unorganized sector throughout the country.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) wanted to impress upon the Government that the condition of the unorganized labour and the economic progress of the country were correlated. He wanted the Government to pay attention to them.

Replying to the discussion on 13 December 2006, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandes said that the Government was conscious of the need to provide social

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Madhusudan Mistry, Tarit Baran Topdar, Shailendra Kumar, Ram Kripal Yadav, Mitrasen Yadav, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Ajoy Chakraborty, Sandeep Dikshit, P. Rajendran, Ravi Prakash Verma, Dharmendra Pradhan, Tek Lal Mahato, Alok Kumar Mehta, Harikewal Prasad, Manjunath Kunnur, Virendra Kumar, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Sippiparai Ravichandran, M. Shivanna, P. Karunakaran, Ganesh Singh, P. Satheedevi, S.K. Kharventhan, A.V. Bellarmin, Ch. Lal Singh, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Smt. Archana Nayak, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh

security to the unorganized sector workers. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which endeavoured to provide guarantee for employment was already making commendable headway. Regarding implementation of Minimum Wages Act, he informed the House that the primary responsibility of implementing the Act rested with the State Governments. However, the Central Government had assiduously pursued effective implementation through discussions, letters, personal interactions and visits to the States. He said that women constituted a large proportion of the unorganized sector and their concerns would be addressed in any proposal for the welfare of the unorganized sector. Regarding welfare of the child labour, he said that the Government would work progressively towards elimination of the child labour.

Coming to the schemes for the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector, the Minister informed the members that the Government was operating five Welfare Funds for beedi workers, limestone dolomite mine workers, iron ore, chrome ore and manganese ore mine workers, mica mine workers and cine workers. He said that the Government was now endeavouring to bring out a comprehensive Central legislation for providing social security to the workers in the unorganized sector. He also assured the House that the Government would consider each and every suggestion made by the members during the course of discussion before taking a final decision.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 and *the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006*:* On 8 December 2006, Shri Prabodh Panda of the Communist Party of India moved the Motion for disapproval of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 promulgated by the President on 30 October 2006. Moving the motion, he said that he was not against the content of the Bill but felt that the promulgation of the Ordinance was quite unfair, unconvincing and unwarranted. Instead of promulgating the Ordinance, he said that the Government could have discussed the Bill in the House itself. He expressed the hope that this would be considered and the Minister would give a satisfactory reply on this aspect.

Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House, the

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19 May 2006

Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran said that the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) was established under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 for providing access to basic telegraph services to the people in rural and remote areas. As it was cheaper to provide mobile telephone services as compared to fixed lines, a decision was taken to create shareable infrastructure in remote areas for provision of mobile services. At the time when this scheme was envisaged, it was pointed out that USO Fund could only be used to provide the basic *i.e.* wire line and fixed wireless terminals to the people. But the members had been urging for long to give topmost priority for providing telecommunication facilities to the rural and remote areas. There had been a consensus since then for taking mobile telephony into the rural and remote areas. Therefore, in order to extend support for cellular services in rural and remote areas from the USO Fund, he said that an amendment in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 was required.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran said that the Standing Committee, in their 34th Report presented to the Lok Sabha on 31 July 2006, had supported the proposal to take mobile service to the rural areas. The Committee were of the view that there was no bar even now for extending the subsidy support for the cellular service because the word 'basic' does not have any meaning. The definition of 'telegraph' was comprehensive and sufficiently wide to cover any type of technology. The Legislative Department said that the Government should bring an amendment and remove the word 'basic' from the expression 'basic telegraph services'. Giving reasons for the promulgation of the Ordinance, the Minister said that if the Government had waited for the passing of the Bill, the scheme would have got pushed back by several months. Referring to the telecom revolution in India, the Minister said that when the UPA Government took over, there were 75 million mobile users. On account of the policies adopted by the UPA Government, he said that the number has now grown to 180 million. The Telecom sector was growing and the Government had capitalized the growth and had made the BSNL and MTNL to function like private players. The Minister said that there were six lakh villages in India out of which 66,822 villages

* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri P.S. Gadhavi, Naveen Jindal, P. Karunakaran, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Shailendra Kumar, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shankhlal Majhi, Kharabela Swain and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

were to be covered by mobile network by the end of June 2006. He added that 36,014 villages had already been covered and the remaining would be covered by November 2007.

By way of replying to the Statutory Resolution, Shri Prabodh Panda thanked the Minister for his encouraging reply and the assurance which he had given in the House. At the same time, he said that he was disappointed with the Minister's reply with regard to the promulgation of the Ordinance. However, considering the importance of the Bill, he said that he was not pressing with the Statutory Resolution and withdrew the same.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006:* On 14 December 2006, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh moved that the Bill be taken into consideration. Part IV of the Constitution containing the Directive Principles of State Policy, in article 46, provided that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs), and shall protect them from social injustice. Access to education was of utmost importance in ensuring advancement of persons belonging to the SCs, STs, and the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, who were also referred to as the Other Backwards Classes (OBCs). The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005 inserted clause (5) in article 15 of the Constitution, with a view to promote their educational advancement through special provisions relating to admission in all educational institutions, including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State. In terms of this provision, the Parliament as well as the State Legislatures were empowered to make appropriate laws for the educational advancement of the weaker sections of the people.

With a view to give effect to the Constitutional provisions, it was expedient and necessary to make statutory provisions in the proposed Bill for reservation in matters of admission for the students belonging to the SCs, the STs and the socially and educationally backward

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25 August 2006

classes of citizens (OBCs) in the Central Educational Institutions, including institutions deemed to be Universities established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. The provisions of the proposed Bill, *inter alia,* would not apply to the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30.

Participating in the discussion*, Prof. M. Ramadass of the Pattali Makkal Katchi thanked the Government for bringing the Bill and said that it had demonstrated to the world and to the country that it was working for economic growth with social justice.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) urged the Government to amend the 1950 Presidential Order which said that only a person professing Hinduism or Sikhism or neo Buddhism could be classified as a Scheduled Caste, and to take affirmative action to provide nation-wide reservations to Muslims.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that reservation in jobs without reservation in educational Institutions would have little value. He said that the Government proposed to put some speed breakers in the Bill, saying that there would be certain quota in the first year and then certain quota in the subsequent years. He appealed to the Government to remove these restrictions in Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill.

Shri L. Ganesan (MDMK) appreciated the Minister for having introduced the Bill but raised the question regarding certain exemptions that had been given with respect to the higher level of education given in the Bill. He urged that Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill should be scrapped.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) said that the Bill was a revolutionary one since it provided reservation to the students belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs in the Central educational institutions.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Human Resource

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.V. Thangkabalu, Ravi Prakash Verma, Devendra Prasad Yadav, A. Krishnaswamy, Mohammad Tahir Khan, Arjuncharan Sethi, Prabodh Panda, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, A. Sai Prathap, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Ram Kripal Yadav, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, S.K. Kharventhan, Santosh Gangwar, Tathagata Satpathy, P. Mohan, Virchandra Paswan, Tapir Gao, Ram Chandra Paswan, Manoranjan Bhakta, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. Chander Kumar, Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar, Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan and Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh

Development, Shri Arjun Singh said that there was some confusion among the members whether this reservation would also be applicable to the un-aided institutions. In this regard, he said that the Bill was under preparation and very soon it would come before the House, which would take care of that aspect also. He assured the House that the Central Government would assist in ensuring that ultimately the reservation of 27 per cent for OBCs becomes a reality in all Central Institutions without fail. So far as the question of reservation in minority institutions was concerned, he said that he had no objection if minority institutions, on their own, wanted to admit any people from there.

The Bill was passed.

*The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006** (as reported by the Joint Committee): On 15 December 2006, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah moved the Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee, for the consideration of the House.

The Forest dwelling tribal people and forests were inseparable. One could not survive without the other. After independence, India continued with colonial legislation and adopted more internally accepted notions of conservation rather than learning from the rich traditions of the country where conservation was embedded in the ethos of tribal life. The reservation processes somehow ignored the *bona fide* interests of the tribal community from legislative framework in the regions where tribal communities primarily inhabited. The simplicity of the tribals and their general ignorance of modern regulatory frameworks precluded them from asserting their genuine claims to resources in areas where they belonged to and depended upon. The modern conservation approaches also advocate exclusion rather than integration. Recently, there was recognition that forests had the best chance to survive if communities participated in its conservation and regeneration measure. It was, therefore, proposed to enact a law laying down a procedure for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes.

The Bill, *inter alia*, sought: to reinforce and utilise the rich conservation ethos that tribal communities had traditionally shown and caution against any form of unsustainable or destructive practices; lay down a

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13 December 2006

simple procedure for recognition and vesting of forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes so that rights, which stood vested in forest dwelling tribal communities, become legally enforceable through corrective measures in the formal recording system of the executive machinery; provide for adequate safeguards to avoid any further encroachment of forests and sought to involve the democratic institutions at the grassroots level in the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights; and address the long standing and genuine felt need of granting a secure and inalienable right to those communities whose right to life depended on right to forests and thereby strengthening the entire conservation regime by giving a permanent stake to the Scheduled Tribes dwelling in the forests for generations in symbiotic relationship with the entire ecosystem.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri K. Yerrannaidu of the Telegu Desam Party stated that a historical injustice had been done to a large section of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers since independence. He suggested that the Bill, after being passed, should be included in the Ninth Schedule for its speedy implementation.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) said that the Bill would give opportunities to the tribals for their economic development. Cultivable land in the forest should be distributed among the tribal people and the forest assets should be utilised for the development of these people.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah said that it appeared from the whole discussion that the forest dwelling tribals and other communities had not received their due share of attention. He said that this single factor prompted the UPA Government to bring the Bill. He said that the tribals living in the forests suffered

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Jual Oram, Madhusudan Mistry, Baju Ban Riyan, Ramjilal Suman, Ram Kripal Yadav, A. Krishnaswamy, Brahmananda Panda, Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta, Mahavir Bhagora, Sandeep Dikshit, Kailash Baitha, R. Prabhu, Ravi Prakash Varma, Kiren Rijiju, Prabodh Panda, Shailendra Kumar, A.V. Bellarmin, Tapir Gao, Prasanta Pradhan, K.C. Singh 'Baba', Manoranjan Bhakta, Francis K. George, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Sita Ram Singh, Narayan Chandra Borkataky, Hansraj G. Ahir, Bapu Hari Chaure, Virendra Kumar, Mohammad Tahir Khan, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Dr. R. Senthil, Dr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar and Prof. Chander Kumar

from a sense of fear psychosis, that any time they might be evacuated. There was no welfare scheme. Now, with the help of this Bill, the tribals had got their rights. They had got titles on that. They were the original people who settled in the country. The Government must recognize, once and for all, that forest people were integral to the very revival, survival and sustainability of the forests' eco-system. It would strengthen the conservation regime and the biodiversity.

The Minister thanked the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the members for spending a lot of time touring the country, meeting a number of NGOs and making constructive suggestions. He mentioned that there had been a talk about the cut off date. In this regard, he said that in the original Bill, the Government had put 1980 as the cut off date, but there was a new generation which had come up. So, taking the ground reality into consideration, he said that the cut off date was put at 13 December 2005. Regarding certain questions about the North-East, he said that he was aware of the sensitivity of the North-Eastern region which was not just homogenous. The Government was taking care of that. Regarding the National Policy on Relief and Rehabilitation, the Minister said that this would be dealt with in totality by the Rural Development Ministry. He also said that he shared the views of the members about the seriousness of the problem of influx of illegal immigrants. The Government was sensitive to that and it would deal with it very strongly and would leave no stone unturned, he added.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the session, 20,990 Notices of Questions (15,244 Starred and 5,713 Unstarred) and 33 Short Notice Questions were received. Out of these, 401 Notices were admitted as Starred; 3,949 as Unstarred (including 2 Short Notice Questions which were admitted as Unstarred but excluding 4 Questions which were deleted from the Unstarred List) and none was admitted as Short Notice Question.

On 22 November 2006, as the House adjourned for the day after obituary references, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were, as such, treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions were printed in the official report of the day.

Due to interruptions in the House on 23 and 29 November and 1 and 6 December 2006, Starred Questions could not be called for oral answer. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were therefore, treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answer to Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official report of the day.

Daily Average of Questions: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the session was 3.2. The minimum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a day was 3 on 24 November 2006.

The average number of questions appearing in the Unstarred List came to 197 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 145 questions on 11 December 2006.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, 31 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of those, two notices were admitted but only one notice was admitted and discussed on the floor of the House.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the period, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha; a member of the Provisional Parliament, First, Second, Fifth to Eighth Lok Sabha; Sarvashri Shankararao Patil, Ravindra Varma, Kanshi Ram, Bhikhu Ram Jain, Yusuf Beg, B.C. Kamble, Gokaran Prasad, K.B.K. Deb Burman, Sukhendra Singh and Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur, all former members.

Besides, references were also made to the Fifth Anniversary of the terrorist attack on Parliament House on 13 December 2001; to the mishap that took place at Bhagalpur on 2 December 2006 involving Howrah-Jamalpur Express which resulted in death of 35 persons; to the mishap on 2 December 2006 when a bus from Delhi to Shimla plunged into a gorge resulting in the death of 14 persons and to a land mine blast on the same day killing 14 police personnel at Kanchkir, in Bokaro district of Jharkhand.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND NINTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Ninth Session on 22 November 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2006. The House was prorogued by the President on 21 December 2006. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on Indo-US Civil Nuclear Co-operation: Making a Statement in the House on 12 December 2006, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee informed the members about the developments pertaining to the implementation of the understanding between India and the United States on the resumption of civilian nuclear energy co-operation. He said that a reconciled Bill for this purpose was passed by the US House of Representatives and the Senate on 8 and 9 December 2006, respectively. The Minister stated that the nuclear understanding with the USA was significant from the larger perspective of India's energy security. Energy, he said, had become a critical constraint for expanding the economic growth and development of the country. The generating capacity in every form of energy was required to be expanded. Though India could expand its access to other forms of energy relying on market mechanisms to do so, however, the access to nuclear energy was impeded by an international regime and required a political solution consistent with the national security and energy requirements. The US Administration had committed in July 18 Joint Statement to adjust its laws that otherwise prohibited civil nuclear energy co-operation with India. The Minister added that the present legislation had facilitated measures necessary for civil nuclear energy co-operation to be worked out between India and the United States. The enactment of waivers from certain provisions of the US Atomic Energy Act, which allowed the US to co-operate with India in civilian nuclear energy despite non-acceptance of full scope safeguards and for maintaining a strategic programme, was significant.

He further informed that the legislation would allow US negotiators

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

to discuss and conclude with India a bilateral co-operation agreement, popularly known as 123 Agreement. Such an agreement was a pre-requisite for nuclear co-operation and trade with the United States. In parallel, India was engaging the International Atomic Energy Agency with the intention of negotiating and concluding an India-specific Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol. At a broader level, India had discussed with the member States of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), the need for an adjustment of their guidelines to permit nuclear supplies to India. The Minister said that it was expected that the July 18 Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan would be reflected in the text of the 123 Agreement. He also stated that the Prime Minister's speech on 17 August 2006 in the Parliament had set forth the Government's position and brought out the principles and concerns that guided the approach to the nuclear understanding. The Minister further informed that the Government had taken note of certain extraneous and prescriptive provisions in the legislation. He said that the conduct of foreign policy determined solely by the national interests was India's sovereign right and the external scrutiny of or interference with the strategic programme would not be allowed.

Statement by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on institution of National Awards for outstanding work done in eradicating untouchability and combating atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: Making a Statement in the House on 27 November 2006, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Meira Kumar informed that the Government of India had decided to institute National Awards to be given to the Non-Governmental Organisations or Human Rights' activists for outstanding fieldwork in the area of eradicating untouchability and in combating offences of atrocities under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. The Minister informed that there would be four awards every year covering both the categories. Awards to individual activists would carry an amount of Rupees two lakh and Rupees five lakh to an institution and would be given to the outstanding NGOs or Human Rights' activists in each of the four regions of the country for rendering yeoman service in the said fields. More than one recipient or organisation may share the award. The award, to be given annually, would be instituted in 2007. .The award was open to all the Indian NGOs and Human Rights' activists without any distinction or discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, caste or creed. The Screening Committee and finally, the Selection Committee constituted for the purpose would consider the achievements of the NGOs or individual Human

Rights' activists nominated/recommended for the Award by the prescribed authority.

Statement by the Minister of Railways regarding accident of 3071 Up Howrah-Jamalpur Express: Making a Statement in the House on 4 December 2006, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad apprised the House of an unfortunate accident that happened on 2 December 2006 at about 07.45 hours. He said that when 3071 Up Howrah-Jamalpur Express was about to reach Bhagalpur Station, the debris of '*Ulta Pul*' fell on the S-8 coach of the train. In that accident, 35 passengers lost their lives, 12 passengers were grievously injured and 4 passengers suffered simple injuries. Injured passengers were immediately admitted for treatment to the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital at Bhagalpur and rescue and relief teams including members of the Engineering Railway Board from Delhi rushed to the site

The Minister informed that considering the extent of human suffering, it had been decided to pay *ex-gratia* of Rupees five lakh to the next of kith and kin of each deceased, Rupees one lakh to each of those who got grievously injured and Rupees twenty five thousand in each case of simple injury. In addition, employment in the Railways to one of the wards of those killed would also be given. Grievously injured passengers who were rendered incapacitated to work despite adequate treatment would also be given employment in the Railways for himself or to one of the members of his family.

The Minister stated that the work on the dismantling of the 100 years old bridge had commenced last week as the construction of a new Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of the old one had been completed. After dismantling one span of the bridge, the incident of sudden falling of the adjoining span on the track had occurred two days prior to the accident on 30 November 2006. Fortunately, no train was passing under the bridge at that time. Despite the incident, the concerned contractor and officers failed to take adequate protective steps, as a result of which a similar incident happened subsequently resulting in the loss of lives of passengers and property. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer, Construction, being *prima facie* responsible for the accident had been suspended and orders had been issued to blacklist Messers Bijoy Kumar Enterprises, the contractor entrusted with the work. The Minister further added that all the General Managers of the Railways had been ordered to ensure observance of stipulated practices and procedures and to take adequate precautions to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

Short Duration Discussion on the situation arising out of the tardy implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: The discussion on the subject took place in the House on 12 and 15 December 2006. Initiating the discussion on 12 December 2006, Shri V. Narayanasamy of the Indian National Congress said that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 passed by the Parliament was a historic Act which gave employment opportunities to the rural poor especially the agricultural labourers, artisans, etc. who did not have any work during off seasons and the people who were living below the poverty line. Millions of people in the country indeed would be benefitted by the Act. He further stated that the Government had also brought out guidelines for implementation of the Act. Under the Scheme, 90 per cent of the money was to be contributed by the Central Government and the remaining 10 per cent by the State Government.

Highlighting the shortcomings in the implementation of the Scheme, Shri Narayanswamy said that some States were spending 15 per cent of the money on publicity alone, whereas the actual allocation for publicity was only 2 per cent. Although Gram Panchayats had been empowered for identifying the beneficiaries and the job cards were to be given to the people free of cost, however, in some States Rupees forty were collected for a job card and Rupees twenty for a photograph. He also said that a pick and choose policy was being adopted for identifying the beneficiaries. He further stated that the guidelines as regards the unemployment allowance were also not being followed and the Scheme was not being implemented in an effective manner. He alleged that the officers and *Sarpanchs* were misusing the funds. Besides, the political party in power in the States also used the Scheme for benefitting its people rather than the real needy persons. He urged that there was a need for monitoring the proper implementation of the Scheme as it was meant for the poorest section of the society.

Participating in the discussion* Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (BJP) focussed on the aspects of lack of awareness about the Scheme, shortage of staff, inadequate provision for administrative expenditure, redressal of grievances, inadequate funds and need for transparency in the implementation. He said that there had to be a penal provision for non-

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Nand Kishore Yadav, Moinul Hassan, P.G. Narayanan, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Rajeev Shukla, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Gandhi Azad, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, K.P.K. Kumaran, K. Keshava Rao, Ajay Maroo, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, Dr. M.S. Gill, Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao and Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

implementation or improper implementation of the Scheme. Referring to the case study of Anantapur, he said that it was noticed that job cards were not given to the individuals, muster rolls were not maintained and the advocated minimum wages were not paid. He also mentioned that the work standards and norms were demanding in nature and difficult to be fulfilled. Moreover, the payment was made fifteen days after work.

Replying to the discussion on 15 December 2006, the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that the Scheme had been implemented in 200 districts, 87,000 *Panchayats* and about 2 lakh villages in the country. The Government, on reviewing the Scheme in 200 districts, had found that the work on the Scheme was satisfactory in 120 districts but was lagging behind the schedule in 80 districts. The Minister said that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme was an effective step in the war against poverty and unemployment. In order to implement the Scheme, four-point formula had been adopted which included peoples' participation, vigilance and monitoring, transparency and accountability. The Minister admitted that there was need to create awareness among the people about the Scheme. He said that there was no role of the bureaucracy in the implementation of the Scheme. As per the Act, the principal role was that of the *Panchayat*. He further said that the State level vigilance Committee had already been constituted. An audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General had also been arranged and action had been taken for covering all the labourers under the LIC and health insurance. The States had been assigned the responsibility of establishing co-ordination between the farmers and the labourers. All these tasks, he said, had been accorded priority.

Short Duration Discussion on internal security scenario in the country: A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 27, 28 and 30 November 2006. Initiating the discussion on 27 November 2006, Shri Arun Jaitley of Bharatiya Janata Party said that though the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government had been in power for more than two and a half years, it had not lived up to the popular expectations. He referred to the gross constitutional improprieties in Jharkhand, Goa and Bihar, criminalisation of the Council of Ministers, abrogation of an effort to pursue an independent foreign policy and the failure of the Government in the management of the country's internal security. He cited the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and the North East including Assam. He stated that the incidents of sabotage and terrorist attacks were not merely confined to Jammu and Kashmir. Huge quantities of

arms and explosives recovered from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal clearly projected the magnitude of the problem. The targets of terrorist attacks were chosen very carefully so as to destroy the economic, religious and social fabric of the Indian society. These situations were further complicated with the illegal immigrations taking place from open borders of Nepal and Bangladesh. He cautioned the Government that internal security had to be tackled sternly above the vote bank politics.

Participating in the discussion* Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi (INC) said that the subject of internal security was always important and if constructive facts and inputs could be given, it would be good for the nation. During 2004-05, the number of civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir had come down roughly by 25-33 per cent and in 2006, the figures had shown a 33 per cent decline. He said that Jammu and Kashmir had a reconstruction plan of Rupees twenty four thousand crore which was given by the Central Government because the Government believed in the progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking about the case of Afzal Guru, he said that the Supreme Court had reiterated its power of judicial review on mercy power to be exercised. If it had been found that there was arbitrariness in the exercise of the power, the apex court would assert the judicial review over such power. Referring to the North-East, he said that there was improvement in these regions just as in Jammu and Kashmir. The States of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were peaceful. Like Jammu and Kashmir, there was a Rupees twenty thousand crore reconstruction plan for the North-East also. He added that there were large parts of India, especially in Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar and in South, which were affected by Naxalite (Maoist) activities in some way or the other and were designated as Naxalite-prone areas. Andhra Pradesh, he said, had experienced a dramatic decrease of forty-fifty percent in Naxal activities. In respect of States like Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, considered to be the main Naxal areas, there had also been a huge decline. But the decline had been less than it should have been in the State of Chhattisgarh. This State had experienced a dramatic increase in naxal activities, which was a matter of great concern for all.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shahid Siddiqui, Prasanta Chatterjee, C. Ramachandraiah, Manohar Joshi, Mangani Lal Mandal, Mukhtar Abbas Naquvi, Raashid Alvi, N. Jothi, Ram Jethmalani, Abu Asim Azmi, Abani Roy, Moinul Hassan, Syed Azeez Pasha, Shreegopal Vyas, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Shrimati Brinda Karat and Ms. Pramila Bohidar

The Central Government was always very keen to do whatever it could do for providing a helping hand. Mentioning the measures taken by the Government, he said that thirty-seven battalions, 37,000 persons of paramilitary nature, armoured vehicles, helicopters, aeroplanes and large amount of money had been given to these States. Refuting the charge that the UPA did nothing and said nothing about the national security in its Common Minimum Programme or in its manifesto, he quoted from the UPA's Common Minimum Programme and said that the UPA Government was determined to tackle terrorism, militancy and insurgency in the North-East as a matter of urgent national priority. It was also mentioned in the manifesto that all the North-Eastern States would be given special assistance to upgrade and expand infrastructure in this regard. The Government, he said, was not unconcerned about such important issues.

Replying to the debate on 30 November 2006, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil requested the members to go through the status paper on internal security situation. He said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir had improved. In some areas it had improved from forty per cent to sixty per cent and some areas of Jammu and Kashmir like Ladakh and other areas were totally peaceful. Referring to the North Eastern States, Shri Patil said that situation in these States had improved. With regard to the States affected by the Naxalite movement, the Minister said that the situation in Andhra Pradesh had been totally controlled and it had improved in Bihar and Jharkhand. But, the situation in Chhattisgarh had worsened. However, he expressed hope that the State Government would be able to control the situation. The Minister further stated that the number of communal incidents in the country had come down and the way people behaved and conducted themselves during such incidents had strengthened the communal harmony. He informed the House that the State Governments on the coastline were also being helped to provide better security. Mentioning about the policy to control the terrorist activities in the country, the Minister said that the Government intended to strengthen the law enforcing agencies and the intelligence agencies. The Government, he said, was also trying to seek the cooperation of the people at large.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004**: Moving the motion for

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20 December 2004

consideration of the Bill on 14 December 2006, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury said that the two words 'child marriage' contradict each other. A child is entitled to childhood and marriage is to be done to an adult. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was enacted with a view to restraining solemnisation of child marriages. The Act was then amended in 1949 and 1978. There had been a growing demand for making the provisions of Act more effective and the punishment more stringent so as to eradicate or prevent effectively the evil practice of solemnization of child marriages in the country. The National Commission for Women had recommended in 1995-96 that the Government should appoint Child Marriage Prevention Officers immediately. The National Human Rights Commission also undertook a comprehensive review of the existing Act and made recommendations for comprehensive amendments through its Annual Report 2001-02. The Central Government, after consulting the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, had decided to accept almost all the recommendations and to repeal and re-enact the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929. The Bill *inter alia* sought to make a provision to declare child marriage as voidable at the option of the contracting party to the marriage, who was a child; to provide a provision requiring the husband or, if he is a minor at that time, his guardian to pay maintenance to the minor girl until her remarriage; to provide that notwithstanding a child marriage has been annulled by a decree of nullity under the proposed section 3, every child born of such marriage, whether before or after the commencement of the proposed legislation, shall be legitimate for all purposes; to empower the district court to add to, modify or revoke any order relating to maintenance of the female petitioner and her residence and custody or maintenance of children, etc; to empower the courts to issue injunctions prohibiting solemnisation of marriages in contravention of the provisions of the proposed legislation; to provide for appointment of Child Marriage Prevention Officers by the State Governments and to empower the State Governments to make rules for effective administration of the legislation.

Replying to the debate* the Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury said that the

* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kalraj Mishra, Virendra Bhatia, Gandhi Azad, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Shreegopal Vyas, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Smt. Brinda Karat, Smt. Hema Malini, Dr. Prabha Thakur, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma A. Heptulla, and Miss Anusuiya Uikey

Law was only an effort to give a direction to remove the social evil and the bad practice of child marriage from the society.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006**: On 14 December 2006, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury moved the motion that the Bill to amend the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act of 2005, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 was enacted by the Parliament in December 2005. The Act dealt with the constitution of a National Commission and State Commissions for protection of the child rights and children's courts for providing speedy trials of offences against children or of violation of the child rights. It was also mentioned that women should be given a major and significant role in the functioning of the Commission. For this, at least, four of the six members of the Commission should be women besides the Chairperson who should always be a woman. It had been proposed that the members to be appointed to the Commission must have, at least, ten years of experience in the respective field. In order to make the Commission more independent, it would be appropriate if the Chairperson and members were appointed on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leaders of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha and the Ministers of Home Affairs and Human Resource Development. Similar provisions had been proposed in the Bill for State Commission also. Section 17 of the Bill empowered the State Governments to constitute State Commissions for protection of the child rights. The word used in this section was 'may' which gave a wide discretion to the State Governments which may or may not constitute the Commission. Therefore, it was felt that there should be a mandatory provision for the States to constitute State Commissions for the welfare and development of the children all over the country. An amendment had been proposed in the Act accordingly. Concerns had also been expressed with regard to matters pertaining to educational and health care of the children, particularly mentally and physically challenged children. Therefore, it was proposed that the Commissions should also look after those issues.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, *etc.* were adopted and the Bill was passed.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28 July 2006

*The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2006**: On 27 November 2006, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah moved the motion that the Bill sought to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Bihar be taken into consideration. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 (108 of 1976) made certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. Prior to this amendment, item 20 of the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Bihar stood as "Lohara or Lohra". Subsequently, on account of the passing of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976, item 20 underwent change, wherein "Lohara, Lohra" appeared at item 22. Inadvertently, the word "Lohara" appearing in the English version was misspelt as "लोहार" in the Hindi version of the said Amendment Act.

Due to the misspelt word, there had been consistent attempt by Lohar (लोहार) in Bihar, who fall under the category of Other Backward Classes, to be treated as the Scheduled Tribes and to obtain the constitutional benefits meant for genuine Scheduled Tribes by taking benefit of the Hindi version of item 22 "लोहार" occurring in the Hindi version of the said Amendment Act of 1976. It may be added that "Lohar" is a distinct group and cannot be treated as identical to "Lohara, Lohra". It was therefore, necessary to amend the Hindi version of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 so as to rectify the error occurred in item 22 by substituting the word "लोहारा" in place of the existing word "लोहार".

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006***: On 18 December 2006, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh moved the motion for consideration of the Bill .The Bill sought to provide for reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto***.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 31 July 2006

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 15 December 2006

*** For details of the Bill, kindly refer to 'Sessional Review-Lok Sabha' at pp. 69

Replying to the debate* the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh said that so far as the private unaided institutions were concerned, a separate Bill had been drafted. He further stated that the Bill was to be implemented within a time frame of three years and care would be taken for the girls' education.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the session, 7,419 notices of Questions (6,525 Starred and 894 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 400 Questions were admitted as Starred and 3,033 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 2,017.

Daily average of Questions: For all days, the list of Starred Question contained 20 Questions. On an average, 3.95 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was eight on 5 and 13 December 2006 respectively and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was one on 11 December 2006. The list of Unstarred Questions contained 100 and 143 Questions on 22 and 23 November 2006 respectively. On rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, nine notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received. Out of these, three were admitted but none was taken up for discussion.

Short Notice Questions: In all, 11 Short Notice Questions were received. However, none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Lalit Suri and Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur, sitting members of the Rajya Sabha, and Sarvashri Shriman Prafulla Goswami, Ahmad Hossain Mondal, Kanshi Ram, Santosh Kumar Sahu, Bhanu Pratap Singh, K. Chandrasekharan, Narasingha Prasad Nanda, and Smt. Lalitha Rajagopalan, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

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* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Janardhana Poojary, Nand Kishore Yadav, Prasanta Chatterjee, P.G. Narayanan, K. Keshava Rao, Gandhi Azad, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, Ali Anwar, Su. Thirunavukkarasar, V. Narayanasamy, Sanjay Raut, Rahul Bajaj, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Syed Azeez Pasha, R. Shunmugasundram, Abani Roy, Datta Meghe, V. Hanumantha Rao, Brij Bhushan, Mangani Lal Mandal, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Dr. Barun Mukherjee, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Smt. Brinda Karat, Dr. Prabha Thakur and Kumari Nirmala Deshpande.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixth Session on 26 October 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on 27 October 2006.

Legislative business: During the Session, following six Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Arunachal Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) The Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iii) The Arunachal Pradesh Goods Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iv) The Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (v) The Arunachal Pradesh Water Resources Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006; and (vi) The Arunachal Pradesh Home Guards Bill, 2006.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced its Third Session on 11 December 2006, and was adjourned *sine die* on 15 December 2006. There were five sittings in all.

Financial business: On 11 December 2006, the List of the Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation for the year 2006-2007 were presented to the House. The Supplementary Demands for Grants 2006-2007 were passed on 13 December 2006 after discussion and voting. Subsequently, the relevant Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 2006 was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 20 prominent persons. Tributes were also paid to those who lost their lives in the bomb blast explosions in different parts of Assam.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY***

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its Third Session of the year 2006 on 4 December 2006. The Governor prorogued the House on 15 December 2006. There were 10 sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat
*** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 19 Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iii) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iv) Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (v) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (vi) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (vii) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (viii) The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ix) The Maharashtra Tax on Lotteries Bill, 2006; (x) The Bombay Village Panchayat and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Pancnayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (xi) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006; (xii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006; (xiii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006; (xiv) Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006; (xv) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (xvi) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (xvii) The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (xviii) The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2006; and (xix) The Hyderabad Abolition of Inams and Cash Grants (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Financial business: On 5 December 2006, the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Sunil Punjabrao Deshmukh presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2006-2007 and Excess Demand statement of Expenditure for the year 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 to the House. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands of five Departments was held on 11 and 12 December 2006.

A total of 158 Cut Motions were received, out of which 76 were admitted, while 82 were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

The discussion and voting on the Excess Demand statement of Expenditure for the year 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 was held on 12 December 2006.

The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006 was passed by the House on 13 December 2006.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were

made on the passing away of Shri Trymbak Shivram *alias* Balasaheb Bharde, former Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Sarvashri Shankarrao Bajirao Patil, Keshavrao Sitaram Sonawane and Ali Hasan Mamdani, former M.L.A.s and Ministers; Sarvashri Sayyad Ahamed Amin, Bhau Sakru Wagh, Namdevrao Kale, Madhav Narayan Bhalavi, Yadavrao Punjaji Shikhare, Ambaji Tukaram Patil, Sahebrao Madhavrao Satkar, Jalamsingh Supadusingh Ingale, Shivajirao Ramchandra Gotad, Madhavrao Tulshiram Dalal, Nurullah Bismillah Khan, Bapusaheb Chandrasen Kamble, Dinanath Gajanan Kamat, Shyamkant Damodar More, Jayant Krishnamurari Katakwar, Ramchandra Devkaji Pawar, Vasudeo Ramchandra Desai, Smt. Kesharbai Sonajirao Kshiarsagar, and Dr. Vinita Dutta Samant, all former members; and Shri Bismillah Khan, famous Shehnai Maestro.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which commenced its Third Session of the year 2006 on 4 December 2006, was prorogued by the Governor on 15 December 2006. There were 10 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iii) The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2006; and (iv) The Hyderabad Abolition of Inams and Cash Grants (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

The following Bills, as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, were considered by the House: (i) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iii) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006; (iv) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006; and (v) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006.

The following Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006; (iii) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) (Second Amendment)

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council Secretariat

Bill, 2006; (iv) The Bombay Village Panchayat and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (v) The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006; (vi) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (vii) The Maharashtra Tax on Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (viii) The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Bill, 2006; and (ix) The Criminal Procedure Code (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Financial business: On 5 December 2006, the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Sunil Punjabrao Deshmukh presented the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2006-2007 and Excess Demand statement of Expenditure for the year 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 to the House. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2006-2007 were held on 12 and 13 December 2006.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Trymbak Shivram *alias* Balasaheb Bharde, former Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Sarvashri Vasantrao Raghunath Patvardhan, Pundlik Ganpatrao Bhanarkar, Dashrath Hiraman Tayde, Sambhajirao Marotrao Thorat, all former members; and Shri Bismillah Khan, famous Shehnai Maestro.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifth Mizoram Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 17 October 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on 19 October 2006. There were three sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following three Bills were introduced and passed by the House. (i) The Mizoram Cooperative Societies Bill, 2006; (ii) The Mizoram Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2006; and (iii) The Mizoram Local Funds (Accounts & Audit) Bill, 2006.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Thirteenth Session on 14 December 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on the same day. Also, the Governor prorogued the House on the same day.

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* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

** Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri A. Lakiumong, a sitting member of the State Legislative Assembly.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Thirteenth Orissa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 13 November 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on 30 November 2006. There were 16 sittings in all. The Governor prorogued the House on 14 December 2006.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following three Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2006; (ii) The Orissa Saw Mills & Saw Pits (Control) Amendment Bill, 2006; and (iii) The Orissa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2006.

Financial business: On 13 November 2006, the Finance Minister, Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai, presented the First Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2006-2007. Six Demands were discussed and voted in full and the rest were guillotined.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Santosh Kumar Sahu, former Deputy Minister; Ananta Charan Majhi, Krushna Chandra Tripathy, Arjun Naik and Bipin Bihari Das, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

* Material contributed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE NINTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	2 November 2006 to 19 December 2006
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	20
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	117 hours and 14 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	25
	(ii) Introduced	15*
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	8
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ recommendation and laid on the Table	Nil
	(v) Reported by Standing Committee	17
	(vi) Referred to Departmentally-Related Standing Committee by Speaker/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	3
	(vii) Discussed	20
	(viii) Passed	20
	(ix) Withdrawn	1
	(x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	4
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	27
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	190
	(ii) Introduced	22
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
	(vi) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	211
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	463
	(ii) Admitted	216
	(iii) Discussed	Nil

7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	264
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	313
9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	431
	(ii) Admitted	7
	(iii) Discussions held	5
	(iv) Part-discussed	Nil
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	12
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 & DIRECTION 37 A	39
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	17
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
13.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	1
	(ii) Admitted	1
	(iii) Moved	Nil
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	6
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Withdrawn	1
	(v) Part-discussed	1
15.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total No. of Notices received	31
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
	(iii) Admitted	1
	(iv) Barred in view of Adjournment Motion admitted on the subject	3
	(v) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	27
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	12,778

17. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED — 1,143 on 8 December 2006

18. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i)	Starred Questions admitted	401
(ii)	Starred Questions answered orally	64
(iii)	Unstarred	3,949
(iv)	Half-an-Hour discussions	1

19. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 5

20. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE — 9 Members (Six on 22 November, One on 23 November, One on 11 December & One on 14 December 2006)

21. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i)	Notices received	5
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil

22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of Women	5	2
iv)	Committee on Estimates	3	1
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	—	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	4	4
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	2	2
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	7	6
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	6	4
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	—	—

xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee		
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	1	1
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—

JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEE

i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	3	1
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	4	3
iv)	Committee on Defence	11	—
v)	Committee on Energy	3	2
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	8	2
vii)	Committee on Finance	—	—
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	8	5
x)	Committee on Labour	6	4
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	—	—
xii)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	1	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	6	4
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	—	—
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	2	1

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006	No. of lectures held
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	1	1 Cultural Programme and 1 Exhibition
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	1	1
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	2	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	—	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND NINTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	22 November 2006 to 19 December 2006
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	20
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	80 Hours and 8 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	2
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	42
	(ii) Introduced	4
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	11
	(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	2
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	8
	(xi) Discussed	19
	(xii) Passed	15
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	4
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	38
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	126

(ii) Introduced

(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha

(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table

(v) Reported by Joint Committee

(vi) Discussed

(vii) Withdrawn

(viii) Passed

(ix) Negatived

(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion

(xi) Part-discussed

(xii) Discussion postponed

(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived

(xiv) Referred to Select Committee

(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill

(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Discussions held

8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i) Statements made by Ministers

9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD

10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

(v) Negatived

(vi) Withdrawn

11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

(i) Received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Discussed

(iv) Withdrawn

(v) Negatived

(vi) Adopted

(vii) Part-discussed

(viii) Discussion postponed

13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved & discussed

(iv) Adopted

(v) Part-discussed

14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

(i) Received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

(v) Part-discussed

(vi) Negatived

(vii) Withdrawn

15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE

(i) Received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

(v) Negatived

(vi) Withdrawn

(vii) Part-discussed

(viii) Lapsed

16.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1,427
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	2,734
19.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	131 (on 19.12.06)
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	275 (on 13.12.06)
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	400
	(ii) Unstarred	3,033
	(iii) Short-Notice Questions	Nil
22.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	Nil
23.	WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	

	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	4	1
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	5	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	3	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	1	1
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	3	1
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	2
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	3	Nil
	Department-related Standing Committees		
(x)	Commerce	3	2
(xi)	Home Affairs	7	1
(xii)	Human Resource Development	7	9
(xiii)	Industry	11	2
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	8	3
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	3	1

(xvi) Health & Family Welfare	2	1
(xvii) Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	Nil	Nil
Other Committees		
(xviii) Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(xix) Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	1	Nil
(xx) Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
(xxi) Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	4	Nil

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 5

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED — 1

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari	S.P.	7.12.2006

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Shri Lalit Suri	Sitting Member
2.	Shrimati Sukhbuns Kaur	-do-
3.	Shri Shriman Prafulla Goswami	Ex-Member
4.	Shrimati Lalitha Rajagopalan	-do-
5.	Shri Ahmad Hossain Mondal	-do-
6.	Shri Kanshi Ram	-do-
7.	Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu	-do-
8.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh	-do-
9.	Shri K. Chandrasekharan	-do-
10.	Shri Narasingha Prasad Nanda	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	11.12.2006 to 22.12.2006	10	9(10)	—	593(274)	–(170)	72(48)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	26.10.2006 to 27.10.2006	1	5(5)	—	46(38)	47(41)	—
Assam L.A.	11.12.2006 to 15.12.2006	5	6(6)	—	360(100)	209(205)	76(68)
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	8.12.2006 to 15.12.2006	6	(7)	—	670(655)	—	258(219)
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	18.12.2006 to 22.12.2006	5	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	31.10.2006 to 9.11.2006	—	5(5)	—	1,194(734)	791(906)*	—

Maharashtra L.A.	4.12.2006 to 15.12.2006	10	15(19)	7	8,257(961)	7(2,200)@	2
Maharashtra L.C.	4.12.2006 to 15.12.2006	10	4(18)	—	4,056(2,986)	5(754)@	9(2)
Manipur L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	17.10.2006 to 19.10.2006)	3	4(3)	—	78(74)	95(92)	—
Nagaland L.A.	14.12.2006	1	—	—	12(12)	3(3)	—
Orissa L.A.	13.11.2006 to 30.11.2006	16	3(3)	—	2,386(1,869)	2,756(3,681)@	21(3)
Punjab L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	13.12.2006 to 14.12.2006	2	3(3)	—	3(3)	6(6)	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	4.12.2006 to 7.12.2006	4	14(14)	—	–(542)	–(1,212)	–(1)
Tripura L.A.	15.12.2006 to 19.12.2006	3	3(1)	—	309(224)	894(680)	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	10.10.2006 to 13.10.2006	4	4(4)	—	400(24)	–(167)	36(4)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred Questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Govt. Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	6	—	—	3	7(6)	1	6	6	—	—	3	10	—	—	1
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2[a]

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	2	1	3	—	—	2	1	3	1	1	1	—	5	1	—	4[b]
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	1(1)	13	12	11(1)	10(2)	—	11	10	—	13	12(1)	11	—	—	—	98(7)[e]
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.	—	16	20	—	4	12	14	16	18	—	2	19	26	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	—	6(6)	7	—	—	20	18	17	10	—	7	10	19(2)	—	—	150[d]
Karnataka L.A.	—	14	12	11	11	11	13(1)	12	12	—	12	12	13	—	21(1)	33(1)[e]
Karnataka L.C.	—	13	12	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	2(5)	6(1)	1(1)	1	6(12)	7(2)	1(2)	5	—	—	3	4(29)	2(1)	—	11(4)[f]
Maharashtra L.A.	2(1)	16(1)	2(2)	1(1)	6(1)	16(5)	7(1)	10(2)	19(4)	—	1	—	15	—	3	38(11)[g]
Maharashtra L.C.	2(1)	5	—	2(2)	2(1)	16(5)	7(1)	10(2)	19(4)	—	1	—	15	—	3	38(11)[h]
Manipur L.A.	—	3	2	—	—	2	2	—	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	1(1)	2	—	—	—	2	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	5(3)	—	—	1(3)[i]
Nagaland L.A.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Orissa L.A.	2	2	5	—	—	7(1)	7	6	4	—	2	4	7	2	1	59[j]
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	1	3	8	—	—	6	2	—	6	—	6	—	18(10)	—	—	4[k]
Tripura L.A.	1(1)	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Uttarakhand L.A.	3(3)	2(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information from State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Committee on Justice Delivery System-1; and Ad-hoc Committee-1

(b) Employment Review Committee-1; Act Implementation Committee-1; and Committee on OBC & MOBC-2

(c) Question and Calling Attention Committtee-10(1); Human Rights Committee-11; Committee on State Language-11; Implementation Committee-10; Nivedan Committee-19(6); Committee on Welfare of Minorities-11; Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-15; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-11

(d) Nivedan Committee-17; Scheduled Tribes Language Development Committee-5; Vidheyak Nidhi and Anushrawan Committee-8; Zero Hour Committee-19; Zila Panchayati/Zila Parishad Committee-2; Question and Calling Attention Committee-10; Compassion and Family Benefit Committee-8; Backward and Feeble Class Welfare Committee-5; Members Convenience Committee-9; Gair Government Resolution Committee-8; Untaking Question Implementation Committee-22; Tourism Development Committee-9; Environment and Pollution Control Committee-9; Slum Area Welfare Committee-5; Minority Weavers Welfare Committee-8; and Yuva Khel Sanskriti Committee-6

(e) Committee on Backward Classes and Minorites-10(1); Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-13; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10

(f) Question and Reference Committee-8; Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2(4)

(g) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-3; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-8(7); Panchayati Raj Committee-8(2); Women Rights and Welfare Committee-8(1); Other Backward Classes Committee-6; Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances-1; Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension-1; and Ad-hoc Committee on

(h) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-3; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-8(7); Panchayati Raj Committee-8(2); Women Rights and Welfare Committee-8(1); Other Backward Classes Committee-6; Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances-1; Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension-1; and Ad-hoc Committee on Sports for Ladies-3(1)

(i) Subject Committee I-1(3)

(j) Standing Committee (I to X)-32; Ethics Committee-9; House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-3; House Committee on Linguistic Minorities-2; House Committee on Environment-1; House Committee on Submissions-7; House Committee on Railway-1; House Committee on Power Generation-1; House Committee on Cyclone and Flood-1; House Committee on Boundary Dispute-1; and House Committee on Rehabilitation-1

(k) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Assam Rifles Bill, 2006	3.11.2006
2.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2006	12.12.2006
3.	The Indian Rifles (Repeal) Bill, 2006	17.12.2006
4.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 2006	17.12.2006
5.	The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006	21.12.2006
6.	The Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006	21.12.2006
7.	The Appropriation (Railways) No.6 Bill, 2006	21.12.2006
8.	The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006	24.12.2006
9.	The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2006	24.12.2006
10.	The Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 2006	24.12.2006
11.	The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006	29.12.2006
12.	The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006	29.12.2006
13.	The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006	29.12.2006
14.	The Dalmia Dadri Cement Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill, 2006	29.12.2006
15.	The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006	29.12.2006

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Andhra Pradesh Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Andhra Pradesh School Education (Community Participation) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Andhra Pradesh Government Property (Preservation, Protection and Resumption Bill, 2006
5. The Registration (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
7. The Andhra Pradesh Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Bill, 2006
8. The Andhra Pradesh Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfers) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
9. The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
10. The Andhra Pradesh Tehsildars and Deputy Tehsildars (Construction of References) (Repeal) Bill, 2006

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Arunachal Pradesh Goods Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 2006
5. The Arunachal Pradesh Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2006

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.III) Bill, 2006
2. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Assam Hill Land and Ecological Sites (Protection and Management) Bill, 2006
4. The Assam Non-Government Educational Institutions (Regulation and Management) Bill, 2006
5. The Assam Agricultural Produce Market (Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Guwahati Prevention of Defacement of Property Bill, 2006

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bihar Sahukaar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
2. The Bihar Aadharbhoot Sanrachana Vikas Saamarthyakari (Enabling) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
3. The Bihar Hotelon Main Vilashita Karadhan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
4. The Bihar Hindu Dharmik Nyas (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
5. The Bihar Bhugarbha Jal (Vikas Evam Prabandhan kaa Viniyaman Evam Niyantran) Vidheyak, 2006
6. The Bihar Utpad (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
7. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-4) Vidheyak, 2006

JHARKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-5) Vidheyak, 2006
2. The Jharkhand Nagarpalika (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
3. The Jharkhand Vidhan Mandal (Sachetak) (Suvidha aur Bhatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
4. The Ranchi Nagar Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2006
2. The Nyayalaya Fees (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
3. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-5) Vidheyak, 2006
4. The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Mandal Sadasya Nirharta Niwaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
5. The Madhya Pradesh Van Upaj (Vyapar-Viniyaman) Sanshodhan, Vidheyak, 2006

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
5. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 2006
7. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
8. The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
9. The Maharashtra Tax on Lotteries Bill, 2006
10. The Bombay Village Panchayat and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2006
11. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006

12. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006
13. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006
14. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
15. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
16. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
17. The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2006
18. The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2006
19. The Hyderabad Abolition of Inams and Cash Grants (Amendment) Bill, 2006

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Hyderabad Abolition of Inams and Cash Grants (Amendment) Bill, 2006
5. The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Criminal Procedure Code (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
7. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
8. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
9. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
10. The Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 2006
11. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
12. The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
13. The Maharashtra Tax on Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, 2006
14. The Bombay Village Panchayat and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2006
15. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006
16. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006
17. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2006
18. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Co-operative Societies Bill, 2006
2. The Mizoram Fiscal Responsibilities and Budget Management Bill, 2006
3. The Mizoram Local Funds (Accounts & Audit) Bill, 2006

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2006

2. The Orissa Saw Mills & Saw Pits (Control) Amendment Bill, 2006
3. The Orissa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2006

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim Labour Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill for Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2006-07 Bill, 2006
3. The Sikkim Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Indian Stamps and the Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2006*
4. The Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Bill, 2006
5. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Tamil Nadu Admission in Professional Educational Institutions Bills, 2006*
7. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2006
8. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2006
9. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2006
10. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2006
11. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006
12. The Anna University (Amendment) Bill, 2006
13. The Anna University, Tiruchirapalli (Amendment) Bill, 2006
14. The Anna University, Coimbatore (Amendment) Bill, 2006

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura State Rifles (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2006

UTTARAKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Supplementary 2006-2007) Bill, 2006
2. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) Bill, 2006
3. The Uttarakhand Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Uttarakhand Unaided Private Professional Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Bill, 2006

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* Bills awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
1.	The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	30.10.2006	23.11.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
		ANDHRA PRADESH			
1.	The Andhra Pradesh School Education (Community Participation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	2.11.2006	11.12.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Andhra Pradesh Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfers) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	6.11.2006	11.12.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	20.11.2006	11.12.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Andhra Pradesh Government Property (Preservation, Protection and Resumption Ordinance, 2006	20.11.2006	11.12.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation

MAHARASHTRA

1.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	18.08.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2006	—
2.	The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	14.09.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2006	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	5.10.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2006	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	19.10.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2006	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	27.10.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2006	Replaced by Legislation
6.	The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	31.10.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2007	Replaced by Legislation
7.	The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	1.11.2006	4.12.2006.	14.01.2007	Replaced by Legislation
8.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	23.11.2006	4.12.2006	14.01.2007	—

	TAMIL NADU				
1.	The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	24.10.2006	3.11.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	6.11.2006	9.11.2006	—	Replaced by Legislation
	UTTARAKHAND				
1.	The Uttarakhand Unaided Non-minority Private Professional Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Ordinance, 2006	18.07.2006	10.10.2006	26.10.2006	Replaced by Legislation

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 27 APRIL 2007)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	DMK	BSP	SS	BJD	CPI	NCP	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TRS	TDP	MDMK	LJSP	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	16	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	36	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	151	131	43	38	24	16	15	12	11	10	11	8	8	6	4	5	4	4	4	3

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 27 APRIL 2007)

States	JD(S)	RLD	RSP	AGP	J&K NC	KC	AIM IM	AITC	BNP	J&K PDP	MNF	MLK SC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SJP (R)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACAN-CIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	1
Karnataka	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	77	3
West Bengal	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																				
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	540	5

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP- Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 25 APRIL 2007)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	AIA-DMK	SP	TDP	RJD	BSP	BJD	NCP	JD(U)	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	4	1[b]	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[c]	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[d]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[e]	2	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[f]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5[g]	2	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[h]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[i]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[j]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[k]	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[g]	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	6	—	—	16	—	—	6	—	—	—	2[m]	—	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6[n]	1	15	1
UNION TERRITORIES																	
29.	NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9[o]	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	72	49	13	12	16	6	7	6	4	5	5	41	8	244	1

OTHERS

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Communist Party of India-1
(b) Samata Party-1
(c) Indian National Lok Dal-2
(d) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(e) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(f) Muslim League-2
(g) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavana Party-1
(h) Mizo National Front-1
(i) Nagaland Peoples Front-1
(j) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(k) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(l) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1
(m) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; Expelled from Bahujan Samaj Party-1
(n) All India Trinamool Congress-3; Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1
(o) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (22.12.2006)	295	186	2	9	6	—	1	—	—	80[a]	11	295	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.2.2007)	60	33	9	—	—	2	—	—	—	2[b]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.2.2007)	75	3	14	2	3	—	—	15	—	13[c]	22	72●	2
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A. (1.2.2007)	90	66	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	9[d]	10	89●	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (1.2.2007)	82	9	30	—	—	1	—	5	—	33[e]	3	81●	—
Karnataka L.A. (20.2.2007)	225	64	79	1	—	—	—	5	57	4[f]	13	223●	1
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.2.2007)	231	39	170	1	—	1	2	1	—	13[g]	2	229●	1

Maharashtra L.A. (1.2.2007)	289	75	54	3	—	71	—	—	—	67[h]	19	289	—
Maharashtra L.C. (1.2.2007)	78	22	13	—	—	20	—	—	—	12[f]	10	77	1
Manipur L.A. (1.2.2007)	60	33	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	18[g]	—	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.2.2007)	40	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27[k]	4	40	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.2.2007)	60	16	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	31[f]	4	59	1
Orissa L.A. (1.2.2007)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67[m]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.2.2007)	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31[n]	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.2.2007)	235	34	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	184[o]	1	234[e]	—
Tripura L.A. (1.2.2007)	60	13	—	38	1	—	—	—	—	8[p]	—	60	—
Uttarakhand L.A. (1.2.2007)	71	37	19	—	—	—	7	—	—	8[q]	—	71	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

• Excluding Speaker/Chairman

a) Telegu Desam Party-45; Telengana Rashtra Samithi-26; All India Majlis Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen-5; Janata Party-2; Samajwadi Party-1; and Nominated-1

b) Arunachal Congress-2

c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

d) Indian National Lok Dal-9

e) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-1; Jharkhand Party-1; and Nominated-1

f) Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Paksha-1; Republican Party of India-1; and Nominated-1

g) Samajwadi Party-7; Gondwana Gantantra Party-3; Rashtriya Samanta Dal-2; and Nominated-1

h) Shiv Sena-56; Jan Surajya Shakti-4; Peasants and Workers' Party-2; Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; Swatantra Bharat Paksha-1; Aakhil Bharatiya Sena-1; and Nominated-1

i) Shiv Sena-9; Peasants and Workers' Party-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; and Lokbharti-1

j) Federal Party of Manipur-13; Manipur Peoples' Party-2; Manipur State Congress Party-2; and Manipur National Conference-1

k) Mizo National Front-23; Mizoram Peoples' Conference-2; and Zoram National Party-2

l) Nagaland Peoples Front-31

m) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2

n) Sikkim Democratic Front-31

o) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-95; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-61; Pattali Makkal Katchi-18; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-6; Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi-2; Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam-1 and Nominated-1

p) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-6

q) Uttarakhand Party-4; Nominated-1; and Others-3

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